UNITED
NATIONS

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
(HABITAT II)

Istanbul, Turkey
3-14 June 1996

Distr.
LIMITED

A/CONF.165/L.1/Add.1
15 April 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Item 9 of the provisional agenda*

THE HABITAT AGENDA: GOALS AND PRINCIPLES, COMMITMENTS AND GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

Compilation of proposals from Member States and United Nations entities

Pursuant to a decision of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) at its third session (see A/CONF.165/PC.3/7), which was held in New York from 5 to 13 February 1996, the present document contains proposals received during that session in regard to amended or alternative texts of chapters II (Goals and principles), III (Commitments) and IV.D (Capacity-building and institutional development) of the draft Habitat Agenda. These proposals are hereby transmitted to the Conference for further consideration. Proposals for amended or alternative texts of other sections of the draft Habitat Agenda will appear in document A/CONF.165/CRP.1.

* A/CONF.165/1; to be issued.

96-06347 (E) 020596 040596

ABBREVIATIONS

DDSMS	Department for Development Support and Management Services of the United Nations Secretariat
DESIPA	Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis of the United Nations Secretariat
DPCSD	Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ILO	International Labour Organization
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WFP	World Food Programme

Chapter II

GOALS AND PRINCIPLES
(Paragraphs 13-22)

Compilation of proposals from Member States and United Nations entities

Existing text

13. Eleventh and twelfth sentences: We reaffirm and are guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and we reaffirm our commitment to ensuring the realization of the human rights set out in international instruments [including the right to adequate housing as provided for] in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child [, taking into account that the right to adequate housing shall be realized progressively]. We reaffirm that all human rights - civil, cultural, economic, political and social - are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated.

Proposals

United States of America

13. Eleventh and twelfth sentences: We reaffirm and are guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and we reaffirm our commitment to ensuring the realization of the human rights related to housing set out in international instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We reaffirm that all human rights - civil, cultural, economic, political and social - are universal, indivisible, and interdependent and interrelated.

Existing text

22. [To safeguard the global interest of present and future generations in human settlements is one of the fundamental goals of the international community. The implementation of the Global Plan of Action will require an increased flow of new and additional financial resources to developing countries in order to cover the incremental costs of the actions they have to undertake to deal with human settlements problems and to accelerate sustainable development.]

Proposals

European Union

22. To safeguard the global interest of present and future generations in human settlements is one of the fundamental goals of the international community. As the impacts of poverty and urban development attain international and even global dimensions, international cooperation and the coordination of national policies on a global and regional level is essential to achieving sustainable human settlements; in particular, technical and institutional cooperation and information exchange are important. External financial resources are needed in some cases to assist in the achievement of the objectives of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world. These should be mobilized from public and private sources.

Group of 77 and China

22. To safeguard the global interest of present and future generations in the provision of adequate shelter and human settlements is one of the fundamental goals of the international community. The implementation of the Global Plan of Action will require an increased flow of new and additional financial resources to developing countries to support their national efforts to deal with human settlements problems and adequate shelter and to accelerate sustainable development. Existing international cooperation and cooperation mechanisms should be revitalized and enhanced, particularly the Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). Countries shall cooperate in a spirit of global partnership, bearing in mind that they have common but differentiated responsibilities. In this respect, the developed countries recognize the responsibility they have as far as international cooperation is concerned in view of the technologies and financial resources they command. At the same time, implementation of the Global Plan of Action will require effective coordination among Governments and institutions as well as other forms of international cooperation, particularly the creation of an enabling international economic environment, transfer of technology, information exchange and technical cooperation.

Mexico

22. Add at the end of the paragraph: These flows should be accompanied by collective commitments and concrete measures on technical cooperation, training programmes and information exchange.

Philippines

22. The Philippines supports the inclusion of paragraph 22, particularly with respect to the increased flow of new and additional financial resources.

United States of America

22. The formulation and implementation of strategies for human settlements development are the primary responsibility of each country at the national, subnational and local levels and should take into account the economic, social

and environmental diversity of conditions in each country. These actions can be considerably enhanced by the efforts of the international community, to the degree that resources permit. Members of the international community should, bilaterally or through multilateral organizations, support efforts of Governments at all levels to foster an enabling environment for human settlements cooperation, coordination, and development.

Group of 77 and China

22 bis. Bilateral and multilateral cooperation should be enhanced in order to support the implementation of national shelter strategies of developing countries. International cooperation should also be strengthened to assist the developing countries in their capacity-building efforts in this regard.

[X

22 ter. We commit ourselves to promoting and attaining the goals of universal and equitable access to quality education, the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and the access of all to primary health care. Good health throughout the life span of every man and woman, good health for every child, and quality education for all are fundamental to ensuring that people of all ages are able to develop their full capacities in health and dignity and to participate fully in the social, economic and political processes of human settlements. Sustainable human settlements can create opportunities to ensure universal, non-discriminatory access to basic health services, including sanitation, drinking water and preventive health programmes. Sustainable human settlements can also promote broad-based education programmes that promote and strengthen respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, the values of tolerance and responsibility, and respect for the diversity and rights of others.] 1/

United Nations bodies

ECLAC

22. Add at the end of the paragraph: At the regional level, the implementation of the Habitat Agenda will require the formulation and improvement of existing regional commitments in order to fully interpret global guidelines and national processes.

1/ An additional principle, paragraph 22 ter, was also considered by the Preparatory Committee. It had been introduced but not discussed in Working Group II; the Working Group decided to submit it to the Plenary in brackets. The Preparatory Committee adopted the paragraph in brackets and transmitted it to the Conference for consideration.

Chapter III

COMMITMENTS
(Paragraphs 23-35)

Compilation of proposals from Member States and United Nations entities

Existing text

23. [Embracing the foregoing principles we, as States participating in this Conference, commit ourselves to implementing the Habitat Agenda, including through subnational, national, subregional, and regional plans of action and other policies and programmes drafted and executed in cooperation with all key actors at all levels and supported by the international community, taking into account that human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development, including adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development, and that they are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.]

Proposals

European Union

23. ... implementing the Habitat Agenda and national plans of action ...

Group of 77 and China

23. Embracing the foregoing principles, as States, we commit ourselves to implementing the Habitat Agenda through national, subregional and regional plans of action and other policies and programmes drafted and executed in cooperation with all key actors and supported by the international community, taking into account that human beings are at the centre of concerns for adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements for development. To this end, we make the following commitments: ...

Burundi

23. Recognizing the productive character of the housing sector and embracing the foregoing principles ...

Canada

23. ... implementing the Habitat Agenda through national plans of action and/or other policies ...

Holy See

23. Agrees with Switzerland see below.

Switzerland

23. Embracing the foregoing principles, as participating States in this Conference, we dedicate ourselves ...

A. Adequate shelter for all

Existing text

24. [We reaffirm our commitment to the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing, as set out in numerous international instruments. In this context, we recognize the fundamental obligation of Governments to enable people to obtain shelter and to protect and improve dwellings and neighbourhoods.] We commit ourselves to the goal of improving living and working conditions on an equitable and sustainable basis, so that everyone will have adequate shelter that is healthy, safe, secure, accessible and affordable and that includes basic services, facilities and amenities and the enjoyment of freedom from discrimination in housing and legal security of tenure. We shall implement and promote this objective in a manner fully consistent with human rights standards.

Proposals

European Union

24. We recognize the fundamental obligation to enable people to obtain adequate shelter and to protect and improve dwellings and neighbourhoods. We commit ourselves to the goal of improving living and working conditions on an equitable and sustainable basis, so that everyone will have adequate shelter which is healthy, safe, secure, accessible and affordable and which includes basic services, facilities and amenities and the enjoyment of freedom from discrimination in housing and legal security of tenure. We shall implement and promote this objective in a manner fully consistent with human rights standards.

Cameroon

24. ... will have adequate shelter at an affordable price, including basic services ...

Canada

24. We reaffirm our commitment to the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing, as set out in international instruments. We further commit ourselves to the goal of achieving adequate shelter for rapidly growing populations and for the currently deprived urban and rural poor through an enabling approach to shelter development that improves the social, economic and environmental quality of human settlements and the living and working environments of all people.

Japan

24. Replace the words "living and working conditions" with the words "living and related conditions".

United States of America

24. ... amenities that are safe, secure, accessible and affordable ...

Existing text

25. We further commit ourselves to the objectives of:

[(a) Ensuring consistency and coordination of macroeconomic policies and shelter policies and strategies in order to support resource mobilization, employment generation and poverty eradication;]

(a bis) Ensuring that women and men have equal access to resources, including credit opportunities, and the right to inheritance and ownership of land and property;

(b) Ensuring legal security of tenure and equal access to serviced land, including through a diverse range of tenure options;

(c) Promoting broad, non-discriminatory access to open, efficient, effective and appropriate mechanisms for housing finance, including credit opportunities for all;

(d) Promoting construction methods, materials and technologies that are affordable, safe, efficient and accessible and that emphasize greater use of local materials and human resources, that encourage and support design efficiency and energy-saving methods and that are environmentally sound and protective of human health;

(e) Increasing the supply of affordable housing and tenure options, including rental, and cooperative and home ownership, through public, community and private sector initiatives;

(f) Promoting the rehabilitation, upgrading and maintenance of existing housing stock;

(f bis) Providing basic services and promoting the supply of facilities and amenities;

(f ter) Recognizing and respecting clear and enforceable rights and obligations of both owners and tenants;

(g) Eradicating discrimination in access to shelter that is based on race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status;

[(h) Promoting shelter and basic services for the homeless, the internally displaced, migrants, indigenous groups and victims of natural and human-made disasters;]

[(i) Promoting access to local basic facilities for education and health services;]

[(j) Formulating or strengthening measures to provide [legal] migrants, migrant workers and their families access to adequate housing and social services;]

[(k) Protecting, within the national context, the traditional rights to land and other resources of pastoralists, fishery workers, and nomadic and indigenous people, and strengthening land management;]

[(l) Avoiding forced evictions, when possible; when unavoidable, striving for rehabilitation.]

Proposals

European Union

25. We further commit ourselves to the objectives of:

(a) Ensuring consistency of macroeconomic and shelter policies and strategies, in order to support resource mobilization, employment generation and poverty eradication;

(a bis) Ensuring that women and men have equal access to resources, including the equal right to inheritance and ownership of land and property;

(b) Promoting security of tenure and equal access to serviced land, especially for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and persons;

(c) Promoting access to efficient and effective housing finance for all;

(d) Promoting locally available, appropriate, affordable, safe, efficient and environmentally friendly construction methods, materials and technologies;

(d bis) Designing standards that provide accessibility also to the disabled in accordance with the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities;

(e) Increasing the supply of affordable rental housing, and promoting affordable home ownership respecting the rights and obligations of both tenants and owners;

(f) Promoting rehabilitation, upgrading and maintenance of existing housing stock and adequate supply of basic services, facilities and amenities;

(g) Eradicating discrimination in access to shelter, and in the housing sphere in general, that is based on race, ethnic or national origin, gender,

age, disability, family status, health status, sexual orientation, employment status, religion, income or social status;

(h) Promoting shelter and basic services for the homeless, refugees, internally displaced people, migrants, indigenous people and victims of natural and human-made disasters;

(i) Promoting access to local basic facilities for education and health services;

(k) Protecting, within the national context, the traditional rights to land and other resources of pastoralists, fishery workers, and nomadic and indigenous people, and strengthening land management;

(l) Avoiding forced evictions, when possible; when unavoidable, striving for rehabilitation.

Group of 77 and China

25. (a) Ensuring consistency of macroeconomic social priority at the national level within the framework of national development programmes that include shelter policies and strategies, and urban and housing policies in order to support resource mobilization, employment generation, poverty eradication and social integration;

(b) Ensuring security of tenure through a diverse range of tenure options, and equal access to serviced land, especially by people living in poverty, particularly women;

(c) Promoting access to efficient, effective and appropriate housing finance mechanisms for all;

(d) Promoting appropriate, affordable, safe, efficient and environmentally friendly construction materials, methods and technologies, particularly in developing countries, at the national, subregional and regional levels;

(f) Promoting the upgrading of existing housing stock, through rehabilitation and maintenance;

(g) Eradicating discrimination in access to shelter and basic services that is based on sex, age, family, ethnicity, religion, health, including physical disabilities, nationality or social conditions of life;

(h) Promoting shelter and basic services for the homeless, including street children, internally displaced persons, migrants, indigenous groups with their traditional habitat, as well as people living in poverty, disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and victims of natural and human-made disasters - temporary shelters not to be considered as permanent human settlements;

(i) Formulating or strengthening measures to provide legal migrants, and migrant workers and their families with access to adequate and affordable housing and social services;

25 bis. Enhanced international support should continue to be provided to refugees in order to meet their needs and to assist in assuring them a just, durable solution in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and international law. It should be noted that sustainable human settlements can only be established for them on their land of origin.

Australia

25. Insert the following subparagraph before subparagraph (a):

Reaffirming, promoting and striving to ensure the realization of the rights set out in relevant international instruments and declarations, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Declaration on the Right to Development, especially the rights relating to shelter;

(b bis) Ensuring transparent, comprehensive and accessible systems for determining and transferring land rights;

(e) Increasing the supply of affordable rental housing through public community and private sector initiatives;

(e bis) Establishing clear, fair and enforceable statements of the rights and obligations of owners and tenants;

(g) ... age, family status, ethnicity;

(h) Promoting access to shelter and basic services for the homeless, the internally displaced, migrants, indigenous peoples and victims of natural and man-made disasters;

Burundi

25. (h) migrants, refugees and indigenous ...;

Canada

25. We further commit ourselves to the objectives of:

(a) Ensuring consistency and coordination of macroeconomic and shelter policies and strategies, in order to support resource mobilization, employment generation and poverty eradication;

(b) Establishing appropriate forms of land tenure that provide security of tenure and equal access to serviced land for all land-users, especially indigenous people, women, local communities and people living in poverty;

(c) Promoting access to efficient and effective housing finance for all;

(d) Promoting construction methods, materials and technologies that are affordable, safe, and efficient, that emphasize greater use of local materials and human resources, that encourage and support design efficiency and energy-

saving methods, and that are environmentally sound and protective of human health;

(e) Increasing the supply of affordable housing and tenure options (including rental, and cooperative and home ownership), respecting the rights and obligations of both tenants and owners;

(f) Promoting the rehabilitation, upgrading and maintenance of existing housing stock;

(g) Support the European Union proposal;

(h) Promoting shelter and basic services for disadvantaged persons, such as the homeless, survivors of family violence, refugees, other displaced persons in need of international protection, internally displaced persons, indigenous people and victims of natural and human-made disasters, as well as persons with disabilities and the aged, who have special needs for safe, flexible and accessible housing;

Holy See

25. (g) ... that is based on race, sex, age, language or religion;

(h) ... the internally displaced, refugees, migrants ...;

Morocco

25. (b) Add at the end: promoting safety and equity in access in regard to drinking water and sanitation, especially for underprivileged people in peri-urban areas;

Norway

25. (b) Promoting security of tenure and equal access for women and men to serviced land, especially for those living in poverty;

(b bis) Securing equal rights for men and women to inheritance and ownership of land and property;

(l) Protecting all people from unfair evictions.

Philippines

25. Add a subparagraph (m): Formulating or strengthening measures to ensure that migrants, migrant workers and their families are:

Provided with adequate shelter and basic services corresponding to the living conditions of the host countries;

Not exploited through living and housing conditions - for example, by being charged unduly high rents or having to live in inadequate shelter;

Accorded treatment on an equal basis with nationals as regards access to, and pricing and management of, housing;

Provided better information on their opportunities, rights and duties regarding housing;

Entitled to an improvement in their housing conditions, taking into account housing and settlement planning policies, their social and cultural norms and traditions, and an improvement in the conditions that promote their participation in public life.

United States of America

25. (b) Promoting security of tenure and equal access to serviced land, especially by women, people with disabilities and the poor;

(c) Promoting broad, non-discriminatory access to open, efficient and effective housing finance, including credit opportunities for all, especially for women, the disabled, and other vulnerable groups;

(d) ... efficient, accessible and environmentally friendly ...;

(e) Encouraging home ownership, increasing the supply of affordable rental, cooperative, communal and other housing, respecting the rights and obligations of both tenants and owners;

(g) Eradicating discrimination in access to shelter that is based on race, ethnic or national origins, gender, age, disability, family status or religion;

(h) Promoting shelter and basic services for the homeless, women and children leaving abusive and violent situations, refugees, the internally displaced, migrants, indigenous people and victims of natural and human-made disasters.

25 bis. Specifically, we commit ourselves to pursuing the adoption, at the national or local level, as appropriate, of:

(a) Provisions to ensure:

(i) Freedom from discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, family composition or disability status in housing and credit markets, and, specifically, recognition that the right to an adequate standard of living pertains to every person, including those in female-headed households;

(ii) Legal security of tenure and equal access to land among all, including women and people in poverty;

(b) Policies aimed at making housing habitable, affordable and accessible, including:

(i) Creation of market-based incentives to encourage the private sector to meet the need for affordable rental housing and home ownership;

(ii) Promoting spatial development patterns and transportation systems that improve accessibility to goods, services and amenities;

(iii) Mobilizing innovative sources of domestic finance - public and private - for housing and community development;

(iv) Expanding the supply of affordable housing through appropriate regulatory and market incentives;

(v) Promoting sustainable economic development through community partnerships;

(vi) Increasing affordability through the provision of rental assistance to people in poverty;

(vii) Supporting community-based programmes that provide shelter and supportive services to the homeless;

(viii) Protection and maintenance of the historical and cultural heritage.

United Nations bodies

DDSMS

25. (b) Add at the end of the subparagraph: Promoting safety and equity in access to drinking water and sanitation, especially for underprivileged people in peri-urban areas.

UNICEF

25. (a) ... poverty eradication, particularly for women and people in poverty, and in the best interests of children;

(b) Ensuring the right to security of tenure for everyone and equal access to serviced land, especially by women and children, the homeless, the inadequately housed, those groups denied land rights and others currently lacking security of tenure;

(f) ... housing stock, and making such housing physically accessible to people with disabilities;

(h bis) Ensuring the provision of and access to adequate shelter and protection for children in especially difficult circumstances: those without families, street children, the displaced and refugees, tribal peoples and their children.

UNFPA

25. (h) Promoting shelter and basic services, including municipal services and essential social services ...

UNHCR

25. (h) ... the homeless, refugees, returnees ...

ILO

25. (g) Eradicating inequality in access to shelter that is based on sex, age, race, family, social origin, national extraction, religion, political opinion or other status;

B. Sustainable human settlements

Existing text

26. We commit ourselves to the goal of sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world by developing economies that will make efficient use of resources within the carrying capacity of ecosystems and by providing all people with equal opportunities for a healthy, safe and productive life in harmony with nature and their cultural heritage and spiritual and cultural values, thereby ensuring social progress.

Proposals

European Union

26. We commit ourselves to the goal of sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world by developing economies that will make efficient use of resources in accordance with the precautionary principle and within the carrying capacity of ecosystems and by providing all people with equal opportunities for a healthy, safe and productive life which is in harmony with nature, cultural heritage, and spiritual and cultural values, and which ensures social progress.

Group of 77 and China

26. We commit ourselves to the goal of sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world that will make efficient use of resources and with equal opportunities for a healthy, safe and productive life in harmony with nature and cultural heritage, and spiritual and cultural values, ensuring economic and social development.

Mexico

26. We commit ourselves to ensuring sustainable management of all urban settlements, in order to enhance their ability to improve the living conditions of residents, especially the marginalized and disenfranchised, thereby contributing to the achievement of national economic development goals. In this

context, it is also important to provide all people with equal opportunities for a healthy, safe and productive life in harmony with nature and their cultural heritage and spiritual and cultural values, ensuring social progress.

United States of America

26. ... an urbanizing world by developing societies that will make efficient use of resources ...

Existing text

27. We further commit ourselves to the objectives of:

(a) Promoting socially integrated human settlements, combating segregation and discriminatory and other exclusionary policies and practices, and recognizing and respecting the rights of all, especially women and the poor;

(b) Acknowledging and harnessing the potential of the informal sector, where appropriate, in providing housing and services for the poor;

(c) Promoting changes in production and consumption patterns and settlements structures that will protect natural resources, including water, air biodiversity, energy and land, thereby providing a healthy living environment for all;

(d) Promoting spatial development patterns that reduce transport demand, and creating efficient, effective and environmentally sound transport systems that improve access to work, goods, services and amenities;

(e) Preserving productive land in urban and rural areas and protecting fragile ecosystems from the negative impacts of human settlements;

(f) Protecting and maintaining the historic and cultural heritage, including traditional shelter and settlement patterns, as appropriate, as well as landscapes and urban flora and fauna in open and green spaces;

(g) Enabling competitive and sustainable economic development that will attract investments, generate employment and provide revenues for human settlements development;

(h) Alleviating the undesired impacts of structural adjustment and economic transition on human settlements;

(i) Reducing the impact on human settlements of natural and human-made disasters.

Proposals

European Union

27. We further commit ourselves to the objectives of:

(a) Promoting socially integrated and accessible human settlements, including appropriate facilities for health and education, combating segregation and discriminatory and other exclusionary policies and practices, and recognizing and respecting the rights of all, especially of women, persons with special needs and persons belonging to vulnerable or disadvantaged groups;

(a bis) (text based on subpara. (g) above) Enabling competitive and sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development that will attract investments, generate employment and provide revenues for human settlements development;

(b) Acknowledging and harnessing the potential of the informal sector, where appropriate, in creating jobs and increasing incomes, while providing housing and services for the poor;

(c) Promoting changes in production and consumption patterns and settlements structures that will protect natural resources - including water, air, biodiversity, energy sources and land - providing a healthy living environment for all, thus reducing the ecological footprint of human settlements;

(c bis) Promoting the creation of a geographically more balanced settlement structure;

(f) Protecting and maintaining the historic and cultural heritage, including traditional shelter and settlement patterns, as appropriate, as well as landscapes and urban flora and fauna in open and green spaces;

(f bis) Promoting education about, and training on, environmentally sustainable technologies, materials and products;

(g) See subparagraph (a bis) above;

(h) Alleviating the undesired impacts of structural adjustment and economic transition on human settlements and reviewing the impact of structural adjustment on social development by means of gender-sensitive social impact assessments and other relevant methods;

(h bis) Formulating and implementing programmes that contribute to maintaining and strengthening the vitality of rural areas;

(i) Reducing the impact of natural and human-made disasters on human settlements;

(j) Promoting the formulation and implementation of local commitments in our communities that will enhance the participation at the local level of all stakeholders.

Group of 77 and China

27. (a) Promoting, where appropriate, socially integrated human settlements, including appropriate facilities for health and education, combating segregation

and discriminatory and other exclusionary policies and practices, and recognizing and respecting the rights of all, especially women and people living in poverty, as well as combating illegitimate confiscation of land and illegal settlements in territories under foreign occupation;

(b) Acknowledging and harnessing the productive informal sector, where appropriate, in providing housing and services for people living in poverty;

(c) Promoting changes in production and consumption patterns, particularly in developed countries, and settlements structures in order to promote the efficient and rational use of natural resources, including water, air, biodiversity, energy and land, thereby providing a healthy living and working environment for all;

(c bis) Ensuring the access of the entire population to a sufficient supply of drinking water and waste disposal services with special emphasis on those sectors and segments of the population living in poverty;

(d) Improving access to work, goods, services and amenities, inter alia, by promoting efficient, effective and environmentally sound transport systems and by promoting spatial development patterns that reduce transport demand, taking into account the special needs and requirements of developing countries;

(e) Promoting optimal use of productive land in urban and rural areas, conserving fragile ecosystems and protecting them from the negative impacts of human settlements;

(f) Protecting and maintaining the historic and cultural heritage, including traditional shelter and settlement patterns, as appropriate, as well as landscapes and urban flora and fauna in open and green spaces;

(f bis) Protecting and maintaining the legal status, demographic composition and physical and social characteristics of cities and the localities under foreign occupation, especially those of holy places and places of cultural and historical significance, in accordance with international humanitarian law and relevant United Nations resolutions;

(f ter) Promoting the redevelopment and reuse of poorly utilized commercial and residential land in urban centres in order to revitalize them and reduce development pressures on productive agricultural lands on the periphery;

(g) Creating an enabling domestic and international economic environment that will attract investments, generate employment, contribute to eradicating poverty and provide revenues for human settlements development;

(h) Developing policies and programmes to reduce the adverse effects and improve the positive impact of structural adjustment on sustainable human settlements development;

(i) Preventing man-made disasters, including major technological disasters, and reducing the impact of natural disasters on human settlements;

(i bis) Ensuring that the importance of coastal zones is recognized in the national development effort and that all efforts are made to ensure their sustainable use.

Australia

27. (a bis) Integrating urban planning and management in relation to housing, transport, employment opportunities, environmental conditions and community facilities;

(a ter) Ensuring access for all people to safe water supplies and sanitation;

(c bis) Providing and encouraging programmes for efficient industrial and domestic waste management;

(d) ... services and amenities, produce lower emission levels and quieter and more energy efficient;

Barbados

27. (c) ... energy, land and a sufficient and continuous supply of clean freshwater thereby providing a healthy living environment for all;

(g) Promoting the redevelopment and reuse of already serviced but poorly utilized commercial and residential land in urban centres in order to revitalize them and reduce development pressures on productive agricultural lands on the periphery;

(h) Ensuring that the importance of coastal zones is recognized in the national development effort and that all efforts are made to ensure their sustainable use.

Canada

27. We further commit ourselves to the objectives of:

(a) Promoting socially integrated human settlements, combating segregation and discriminatory and other exclusionary policies and practices, and recognizing and respecting the rights of all, especially women and people living in poverty;

(b) Promoting the regularization and upgrading of informal settlements and urban slums as an expedient measure and pragmatic solution to the urban shelter deficit;

(c) Promoting patterns of consumption and production that are more sustainable, reduce environmental stress and meet basic needs;

(c bis) Providing adequate and integrated environmental infrastructure facilities in all settlements by the year 2025; this includes water, sanitation,

drainage and solid waste management, which provide the fundamental basis for sustainable human settlements;

(c ter) Giving priority attention to human settlements programmes and policies to reduce urban pollution resulting especially from inadequate water supply, sanitation and drainage, poor industrial and solid-waste management, and air pollution;

(d) Promoting spatial development patterns that reduce transport demand, as well as creating efficient, effective and environmentally sound transport systems that improve access to work, goods, services and amenities;

(d bis) Providing more energy-efficient technology and alternative/renewable energy for human settlements, and reducing the negative impacts of energy production and use on human health and on the environment;

(e) Developing and supporting the implementation of improved land-management practices that deal comprehensively with potentially competing land requirements for agriculture, industry, transport, urban development, green space, preserves and other vital needs while protecting fragile ecosystems and environmentally vulnerable areas;

(f) Protecting and maintaining the historic and cultural heritage, including traditional shelter and settlement patterns, as appropriate, of indigenous and other people, as well as landscapes and urban flora and fauna in open and green spaces;

(g) Enabling competitive and sustainable development that will attract investments, generate employment and provide revenues for human settlements development;

(h) Alleviating the undesired impacts of structural adjustment and economic transition on human settlements;

(i) Reducing the negative impacts of natural and human-made disasters on human settlements by ensuring adequate regulatory and other measures to avoid their occurrence and appropriate planning mechanisms and resources for rapid, people-centred responses that promote a smooth transition from relief, through rehabilitation, to reconstruction and development;

(i bis) Promoting the development of more balanced urban systems by encouraging productive investments, job creation and social infrastructure development in small and medium-sized cities.

Croatia

27. (i) ... disasters, and incorporating the cultural and sustainable dimension of development into post-disaster reconstruction and rehabilitation.

Holy See

27. (a bis) (text based on subpara. (g) of existing text) Enabling competitive and sustained economic growth, in the context of sustainable development that will attract investments, generate employment and provide revenues for human settlements development;

Japan

27. (a) Replace the words "the poor" with the word "children".

Mexico

27. (i) Reducing the impact of any natural disasters or other emergencies on human settlements.

Morocco

27. (c bis) Promoting integrated water (resources and use) planning to study in advance least-cost alternatives for mobilizing, with a long-term view and on an appropriate scale, finite freshwater basins for cities;

(e) Preserving, as much as possible, productive land ...

(j) Developing functional housing as a workplace for women.

Slovenia

27. In the European Union proposal for subparagraph (c bis), change the words "geographically more balanced" to "policentric".

United States of America

27. We further commit ourselves to the objectives of:

(a) Promoting socially integrated human settlements, combating segregation and discriminatory and other exclusionary policies and practices, and recognizing and respecting the rights of all, especially women, children, people with disabilities and people living in poverty;

(a bis) Implementing the social and development goals already agreed to by the international community in the areas of basic education, maternal and child health, reproductive and sexual health and gender equality;

(b) Acknowledging, promoting and enhancing the efforts and potential of the informal sector, where appropriate, in providing housing and services for people living in poverty;

(c) Promoting changes in production and consumption patterns, demographic policies and settlements structures that will protect natural resources - including water, air, biodiversity and land - providing a healthy living environment for all;

(d) Promoting spatial development patterns that reduce transport demand, as well as creating efficient, effective and environmentally sound transportation systems that improve access to work, goods, services and amenities;

(e) Preserving productive land in urban and rural areas and protecting fragile ecosystems from the negative impacts of human settlements;

(f) Protecting and maintaining the historic and cultural heritage, including traditional shelter and settlement patterns, as appropriate, as well as landscapes and urban flora and fauna in open and green spaces;

(g) Enabling sustainable economic development that will attract investments, generate employment and provide revenues for human settlements development;

(h) Mitigating, in so far as possible, the negative impacts of structural adjustment and economic transition on human settlements through well-designed policies, especially on members of vulnerable groups and women;

(i) Reducing the impact of natural and human-made disasters on human settlements;

(j) Promoting increased access to water supply and sanitation in order to improve health;

(k) Rebuilding disaster-afflicted settlements in a manner that reduces future disaster-related risks and makes the rebuilt settlements accessible to all.

United Nations bodies

DDSMS

27. (c bis) Promoting integrated water (resources and use) planning to study in advance least-cost alternatives for mobilizing, with a long-term view and on an appropriate scale, finite freshwater basins for cities;

(j) Developing functional housing as a workplace for women.

UNESCO

27. (i) ... human-made disasters, as well as international and civil wars.

UNICEF

27. (b) Recognizing and supporting the efforts and potential of the informal sector in producing housing and services for the poor;

(d) ... sound public transportation ... access to work, education ...;

(f) ... open and green spaces, access to which is critical to the cognitive development of children.

UNFPA

27. (b) Implementing the social development goals already agreed to by the international community in the areas of basic education, maternal and child health, reproductive and sexual health, and gender equity;

(c) Moderating population pressure through greater investments in education and health, including reproductive health, and through other measures to ensure greater gender equity;

FAO

27. (c) ... structures that will use natural resources sustainably, including water, air biodiversity ...;

(e) Using productive land in urban and rural areas sustainably and protecting fragile ...;

(j) Promoting the conservation of forests and fostering the policies and actions required for assuring their sustainable use.

Existing text

C. Enablement

28. We commit ourselves to the strategy of enabling all key actors in the public, private and community sectors to play an effective role - at the national, State/provincial, metropolitan and local levels - in human settlements and shelter development.

Proposals

Group of 77 and China

28. ... and shelter development, assisted as far as necessary and possible by the international community.

Australia

Change the title of section C to "Enablement and participation"

28. ... metropolitan and local levels - in the planning and implementation of human settlements and shelter development.

Canada

28. ... role - at the national, State/provincial, metropolitan and other local levels - in the design, management and assessment of human settlements and shelter development.

Norway

28. We commit ourselves to the strategy of enabling all key actors, men and women on an equal basis, in the public ...

United States of America

28. We commit ourselves to the strategy of enabling all whose interests are at stake in the public, private and community sectors, especially grass-roots women's groups, to play an effective role - at the national, State/provincial, metropolitan and local levels - in human settlements and shelter development.

Existing text

29. We further commit ourselves to the objectives of:

(a) Exercising public authority and using public resources with transparency and accountability;

(b) Decentralizing authority and resources, as appropriate, and functions and responsibilities to the level most effective in addressing the needs of people in their settlements;

(c) Promoting institutional and legal frameworks and capacity-building conducive to civic engagement and broad-based participation in human settlements development;

(d) Capacity-building for human settlements management and development;

(e) Supporting enabling frameworks - both institutional and legal - for mobilizing financial resources for sustainable shelter and human settlements development;

(f) Promoting equal access to reliable information, utilizing, where appropriate, modern communications technology and networks.

Proposals

European Union

29. We further commit ourselves to the objectives of:

(aa) Enabling local leadership and promoting democratic rule, ensuring transparent, responsible, accountable, just, effective and efficient governance of towns, cities and metropolitan areas;

(a) Exercising public authority and using public resources with transparency and accountability;

(e) Promoting institutional and legal enabling frameworks for mobilizing financial resources for sustainable shelter and human settlements development;

(g) Ensuring the availability of education for all and supporting research aimed at building local capacity that promotes adequate shelter for all and sustainable settlements development.

Group of 77 and China

29. (b) Decentralizing authority and resources, as appropriate, in addressing the needs of people in their settlements;

Australia

29. (g) Facilitating effective participation by tenants in the management of public and community-based housing;

(h) Providing adequate opportunities for effective participation by women and disadvantaged people in the planning and implementation of urban and rural development.

Canada

29. (a) Ensuring transparent and accountable governance and administration of all public institutions;

(b) Decentralizing authority and resources, as appropriate, as well as functions and responsibilities to the level most effective in addressing the needs of people in their settlements;

(b bis) Supporting progress and security for people and communities, whereby every member of society is enabled to satisfy his or her basic human needs and to realize his or her personal dignity, safety and creativity;

(c) Promoting institutional and legal frameworks and capacity-building at the national and local levels conducive to civic engagement and broad-based participation in human settlements development;

(c bis) Encouraging the establishment of community-based organizations, civil society organizations, and other forms of non-governmental entities that can contribute to the efforts to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life in human settlements;

(c ter) Institutionalizing a participatory approach to sustainable human settlements development, based on a continuous dialogue between the actors involved in urban development (the public sector, the private sector and communities), especially women and indigenous people;

(d) Promoting capacity development for human settlements planning, management and development at the national and local levels that includes education, training and institutional strengthening;

(e) Supporting institutional and legal enabling frameworks at the national and local levels for mobilizing financial resources for sustainable shelter and human settlements development;

(f) Promoting equal access to reliable information at the national and local levels, utilizing, where appropriate, modern communications technology and networks.

Gender equality

29 bis. We commit ourselves to the goal of gender equality in human settlements development. In order to achieve this, we commit ourselves to:

(a) Integrating gender perspectives in human settlement related legislation, policies, programmes and projects through the application of gender-based analysis;

(b) Developing conceptual and practical methodologies for incorporating gender perspectives in human settlement planning, development and evaluation, including the development of indicators;

(c) Collection, analysing and disseminating gender-disaggregated data and information on human settlement issues for use in policy and programme planning and implementation;

(d) Integrating a gender perspective in the design and implementation of environmentally sound and sustainable resource management mechanisms, production techniques and infrastructure development in rural and urban areas;

(e) The formulation and strengthening of policies and practices to promote the full and equal participation of women in human settlement planning and decision-making.

* * *

At the request of the Preparatory Committee, the following statement has been included for the information of participants in the Conference:

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN ON THE COMMONLY UNDERSTOOD MEANING OF THE TERM "GENDER"*

"1. During the 19th meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women, acting as preparatory body for the Fourth World Conference on Women, an issue arose concerning the meaning of the word 'gender' in the context of the Platform for Action of the Conference. In order to examine the matter, the Commission decided to form a contact group in New York, with the Commission's Rapporteur, Ms. Selma Ashipala (Namibia), as Chairperson. The Commission mandated the informal contact group to seek agreement on the

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* Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (A/CONF.177/20/Add.1), annex IV.

commonly understood meaning of 'gender' in the context of the Platform for Action and to report directly to the Conference in Beijing.

"2. Having considered the issue thoroughly, the contact group noted that: (1) the word 'gender' had been commonly used and understood in its ordinary, generally accepted usage in numerous other United Nations forums and conferences; (2) there was no indication that any new meaning or connotation of the term, different from accepted prior usage, was intended in the Platform for Action.

"3. Accordingly, the contact group reaffirmed that the word 'gender' as used in the Platform for Action was intended to be interpreted and understood as it was in ordinary, generally accepted usage. The contact group also agreed that the present report should be read by the President of the Conference as a president's statement and that the statement should be part of the final report of the Conference."

* * *

Norway

29. (d) Capacity-building for human settlements management and development, especially for women;

United States of America

29. (c) Promoting gender-sensitive institutional and legal frameworks ...;

United Nations bodies

UNESCO

29. (b bis) Supporting local initiatives at the local, municipal, community, private sector and non-governmental levels for improving living conditions and social services;

(c) ... human settlements development, in particular through education for citizenship;

(d) Capacity-building and training for human settlements ...;

UNFPA

29. (b bis) Supporting local initiatives at the local, municipal, community, private sector and non-governmental levels for improving living conditions and social services;

WFP

29. (g) Undertaking affirmative action to eliminate hunger, malnutrition, disease and illiteracy, which are constraints to the proper development of human settlements and shelter.

Existing text

D. Financing shelter and human settlements

30. We commit ourselves to strengthening existing financial mechanisms and, where appropriate, developing new mechanisms for financing the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, which will mobilize increased sources of finance - public, private, multilateral and bilateral - at the international, regional, national and local levels, and which will promote the efficient, effective and accountable allocation and management of resources.

Proposals

European Union

30. ... increased sources of finance - public and private, at the regional and local levels, and will promote the efficient, effective and accountable allocation and management of resources.

Mexico

30. ... which will mobilize increased sources of finance on grant and on concessional terms - public, private ...

Norway

30. ... developing new mechanisms in a sustainable manner for financing ...

United Nations bodies

ECLAC

30. ... mechanisms for financing the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and regional commitments or plans of action, which will mobilize increased ...

Existing text

31. We further commit ourselves to the objectives of:

(a) Stimulating national and local economies, through enabling competitive and sustainable economic development that will attract public and international financial resources and private investments, generate employment and increase revenues, providing a stronger financial base to support shelter and human settlements development;

(b) Strengthening fiscal and financial management capacity, at all levels, to fully develop the taxation base, pricing mechanisms and other sources of revenue;

(c) Enhancing public revenue through the use, as appropriate, of fiscal instruments that are conducive to environmentally friendly practices in order to promote direct support for sustainable human settlements;

(d) Strengthening regulatory and legal frameworks to enable markets to work and to facilitate independent initiative and creativity, as well as to encourage a wide range of partnerships to finance shelter and human settlements development;

(e) Promoting increased equitable access to credit for all;

(f) Adopting, where appropriate, transparent, timely, predictable and performance-based mechanisms for the transfer of funds between different levels of government;

(g) Targeting, where appropriate, subsidies to those who are not served by the market, and promoting appropriate credit mechanisms and other instruments to address their needs.

Proposals

European Union

31. We further commit ourselves to the objectives of:

(a) Stimulating national and local economies, through enabling competitive and sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development that will attract public and international financial resources and private investments, generate employment and increase revenues, providing a stronger financial base to support shelter and human settlements development;

(b) Strengthening fiscal and financial management capacity, at all levels, to fully develop the taxation base and other sources of revenue;

(c) Enhancing public revenue through the use, as appropriate, of fiscal instruments that are conducive to environmentally friendly practices in order to promote direct support for sustainable human settlements;

(d) Strengthening regulatory and legal frameworks to enable markets to work and to facilitate independent initiative and creativity, as well as to encourage a wide range of partnerships to finance shelter and human settlements development;

(e) Promoting equal access to credit for all;

(f) Adopting, where appropriate, transparent, timely, predictable and performance-based mechanisms for the transfer of funds between different levels of government;

(g) Fostering the accessibility of the market for those who are less organized and informed or otherwise excluded from participation by providing, where appropriate, and promoting appropriate credit mechanisms and other instruments to address their needs.

Group of 77 and China

31. (f) Adopting, where appropriate, transparent, timely, predictable and performance-based mechanisms for the allocation of resources at different levels of government;

(h) Recognizing that the housing sector is a socially and economically productive sector, to be treated on a par with other productive sectors.

Morocco

31. (h) Recognizing that the housing sector, in particular the social housing sector, is economically productive and has to be considered equal to any other sector.

Norway

31. (a) ... a stronger financial base to support sustainable shelter ...;

(c) ... direct support for sustainable human settlements, especially for women and the poor;

United States of America

31. We further commit ourselves to the objectives of:

(a) Stimulating national and local economies, through enabling sustainable economic development that will attract public and international financial resources and private investments, generate employment and increase revenues, providing a stronger financial base to support shelter and human settlements development;

(b) Strengthening fiscal and financial management capacity, at all levels, to fully develop the taxation base, pricing mechanisms and other sources of revenue;

(c) Enhancing public revenue through the use, as appropriate, of fiscal instruments that are conducive to accessible and environmentally friendly practices in order to promote direct support for sustainable human settlements;

(d) Strengthening regulatory and legal frameworks to enable markets to work and to facilitate independent initiative and creativity, as well as to encourage a wide range of partnerships to finance shelter and human settlements development;

(e) Promoting equal access to credit by all people;

(f) Adopting, where appropriate, transparent, timely, predictable and performance-based mechanisms for the transfer of funds between different levels of government;

(g) Targeting, where appropriate, subsidies to those who are not served by the market, and promoting appropriate credit mechanisms and other instruments to address their needs.

United Nations bodies

WFP

31. (h) Utilizing where appropriate, food transfers given to food insecure communities as food for work to building community assets such as roads, health and sanitation facilities and the supply of potable water.

Existing text

E. International cooperation

[32. We commit ourselves - in the interests of international peace, security, justice and stability - to enhancing international cooperation and partnerships that will assist in the implementation of the national and the global plans of action and the attainment of the goals of the Habitat Agenda by contributing to and participating in multilateral, regional and bilateral cooperation programmes and institutional arrangements and technical and financial assistance programmes, by exchanging appropriate technology, by collecting, analysing and disseminating information about shelter and human settlements, and by international networking.]

Proposals

European Union

32. ... participating in multilateral, regional and bilateral cooperation programmes and technical and financial assistance programmes, by exchanging appropriate technology, by supporting capacity-building and by collecting, analysing and disseminating information about shelter and human settlements.

Group of 77 and China

32. We commit ourselves - in the interests of international peace and development - to strengthening international cooperation to support the efforts of the developing countries in achieving the goals of the Habitat Agenda and in implementing national shelter strategies through the creation of a favourable environment for developing countries and through the provision of new and additional financial resources that are both adequate and predictable to support national efforts for sustainable human settlements, enhanced financial stability and more equitable access of developing countries to global markets, productive investments and technologies, as well as through enhanced cooperation in resolving the debt and debt-service burdens of developing countries and

facilitation of the effective transfer of the relevant technologies, including new and emerging technologies, on concessional and preferential terms.

Croatia

32. ... financial assistance programmes, in particular to assist the post-war reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts, by the collection, analysis and dissemination of information about shelter and human settlements, and by international networking.

Mexico

32. ... by exchanging expertise, training national experts and transferring appropriate technology; by supporting national action through the promotion of capacity-building and self-reliance in the human settlement sector; by collecting ...

Norway

32. ... shelter and human settlements on a gender specific basis and by international networking.

United Nations bodies

ESCWA

32. ... and by international and regional networking.

Existing text

[33. We further commit ourselves to the objectives of:

(a) Striving for the fulfilment of the accepted target for official development assistance of 0.7 per cent of the gross national product of the developed countries as soon as possible, as well as increasing, within it, the share for funding for human settlements and shelter development;

(b) Using resources and economic instruments in an effective, efficient and equitable manner, at the local, national, regional and international levels;

(c) Promoting responsive international cooperation between public, private, non-profit, non-governmental and community organizations.]

Proposals

European Union

33. We further commit ourselves to the objectives of:

(a) Striving for the fulfilment of the accepted target for official development assistance of 0.7 per cent of the GNP of the developed countries and

of 0.15 per cent of GNP for official development assistance to the least developed countries, as soon as possible, as well as increasing, within it, where appropriate, the share for funding human settlements and shelter development and using resources more efficiently, effectively and equitably;

(a bis) Agreeing on a mutual commitment between interested developed and developing country partners to allocate, on average, 20 per cent of ODA and 20 per cent of the national budget, respectively, to basic social programmes;

(b) Promoting responsive and flexible international cooperation between public and private stakeholders at all appropriate levels.

Delete subparagraph (c).

Group of 77 and China

33. (a) Achieving the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance as accepted by the developed countries, and increasing funding for human settlements and shelter development;

(a bis) Promoting a favourable environment aiming at increasing participation of private capital flows and financing of shelter and human settlements;

(b) Using resources and economic instruments in an effective, efficient and equitable manner at the local, national, regional and international levels;

(b bis) Mobilizing adequate new and additional financing resources, particularly on concessional and grant terms, and ensuring optimal utilization of the available funds;

(c) Enhancing international cooperation through multilateral channels, particularly the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and other organizations, and bilateral means, between public, private, non-profit, non-governmental and community organizations;

(d) Inviting multilateral and bilateral donors to improve their financing policies and planning procedures, as well as the impact, complementarity and cost-effectiveness of their contributions to the achievement of adequate shelter and human settlements programmes in developing countries.

Australia

33 bis. We commit ourselves to:

Developing and utilizing quantitative and qualitative indicators of progress towards realizing commitments in the Habitat Agenda, including where possible disaggregation by gender and income;

Using these indicators to monitor and evaluate, within our own countries and regionally, efforts to implement national plans of action, striving to

ensure efficiency and effectiveness in meeting the goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development;

Defining time-bound goals and targets for fulfilling commitments in the Habitat Agenda within each national context.

Japan

33. (a) Striving for the fulfilment of the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance, as soon as possible, as well as increasing the share for funding for human settlements and shelter development in coordination with agreements reached at previous United Nations conferences, in particular the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development;

Morocco

33. (a) ... 0.7 per cent of developed countries' gross national product ...;

Norway

33. (a) ... for funding for sustainable ...;

United States of America

33. We further commit ourselves to the objectives of:

(a) Continuing official development assistance, with due consideration for funding human settlements and shelter development;

(b) Using resources and economic instruments in an effective and efficient manner at the local, national, regional and international levels;

(c) Promoting responsive international cooperation between public, private, non-profit, non-governmental and community organizations.

United Nations bodies

UNICEF

33. (a) ... and shelter development, including education, health care, social services and all other necessary capabilities for providing full and decent human lives;

F. Assessing progress

Existing text

34. We commit ourselves to monitoring and evaluating, within our own countries, efforts to implement national plans of action, while striving to ensure

efficiency and effectiveness in meeting the goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development.

Proposals

European Union

34. We commit ourselves to observing and implementing the Habitat Agenda as a guide for action within our countries and will monitor progress towards that goal. We recognize the need for an integrated approach to sustainable development and will strive for coordinated implementation of international commitments and action programmes.

Australia

34 (bis). The important role of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in monitoring those aspects of the Habitat Agenda that relate to States Parties' compliance with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights should be emphasized.

United Nations bodies

UNICEF

34. ... human settlements development. The well-being of children is the ultimate indicator of a healthy society. Child-sensitive indicators and monitoring tools must be developed, as well as the means of monitoring differential impacts upon women and men. Non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations must be an integral part of the monitoring and evaluation process.

Existing text

35. We further commit ourselves to the objective of enhancing the role and strengthening the institutional capacity of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) as an agency of coordination and cooperation to assist the States Members of the United Nations in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, using shelter and urban indicators and best practices as a basis for assessing global conditions and trends in shelter and human settlements development.

Proposals

European Union

35. We further commit ourselves to cooperating, in the framework of the United Nations and other international organizations, in the collection, evaluation and dissemination of knowledge needed to assess progress towards meeting the goals of the Habitat Agenda. We will support the Secretary-General of the United Nations, through the appropriate bodies, in all efforts to promote transparency and a coordinated intergovernmental approach for monitoring and evaluation.

Group of 77 and China

35. ... States Members of the United Nations in evaluating the implementation of the Habitat Agenda ...

Morocco

35. Add at the end: Because of the sheer dimension of this monitoring effort and the great diversity of the expertise required, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) should seek synergies and cost-effective partnerships, primarily with the specialized agencies of the United Nations system.

United States of America

35. We further commit ourselves to examining the role of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and strengthening its institutional capacity, where appropriate, as an agency of coordination and cooperation to assist States Members of the United Nations in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, using shelter and urban indicators and best practices as a basis for assessing global conditions and trends in shelter and human settlements development.

United Nations bodies

DDSMS

35. Add at the end: Because of the sheer dimension of this monitoring effort and the great diversity of the expertise required, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) should seek synergies and cost-effective partnerships, primarily with the specialized agencies of the United Nations system.

UNESCO

35. ... to assist, together with other specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations concerned with various aspects of human settlements, the States Members of the United Nations ...

ECLAC

35. Add at the end: Regional commissions should cooperate in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of such regional commitments as regional declarations or plans of action and in reformulating inappropriate commitments so as to coordinate them with the Global Plan of Action and national plans of action.

ESCWA

35. ... strengthening the institutional capacity of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the regional commissions as agencies of coordination and cooperation ...

Chapter IV

GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION: STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

D. Capacity-building and institutional development
(Paragraphs 129-142)

Compilation of proposals

1. Proposals from Member States and United Nations entities

1. Introduction

Existing text

129. Economically buoyant, socially vibrant and environmentally sound human settlements under conditions of continuing and rapid urbanization will increasingly depend on the capacity of all levels of government to reflect the priorities of communities, encouraging and guiding local development and forging partnerships between the private, public and community sectors. This can be achieved only through the effective decentralization of responsibilities and commensurate resources to key actors that are closest to and most representative of their constituencies, setting in motion a strategic and participatory urban management process rooted in a shared vision. This process of decentralization and the envisaged urban management process will place great demands on institutions, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Capacity-building is thus to be directed towards supporting decentralization and the participatory urban management process.

Proposals

Group of 77 and China

129. Economically buoyant, socially vibrant and environmentally sound human settlements under conditions of continuing and rapid urbanization will increasingly depend on the capacity of all levels of government to reflect the priorities of communities, encouraging and guiding local development and forging partnerships between the private, public and community sectors. This can be achieved only through the effective decentralization of responsibilities and commensurate resources to key actors that are closest to and most representative of their constituencies, setting in motion a strategic and participatory urban management process rooted in a shared vision. This process of decentralization and the envisaged urban management process will place great demands on institutions, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Capacity-building is thus to be directed towards supporting decentralization and strengthening institutions and the participatory urban management process.

European Union

129. Economic and social development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Economically buoyant, socially vibrant and environmentally sound human settlements under conditions of continuing and rapid urbanization will increasingly depend on the capacity of all levels of government to reflect the priorities of communities, to encourage and guide local development and forge partnerships between the private, public, voluntary and community sectors. This can be achieved only through the effective decentralization of responsibilities and commensurate resources to key actors that are transparent and accountable in their functioning and closest to and most representative of their constituencies, setting in motion a strategic and participatory urban management process rooted in a shared vision.

United States of America

129. ... This can be achieved only through the effective decentralization of responsibilities, policy management decision-making authority, and sufficient resources, including collection authority, to local authorities that are closest to and most representative of their constituencies, setting in motion a strategic and participatory urban management process rooted in a shared vision. This process of decentralization and the envisaged urban management process will place great demands on local authorities and local institutions, particularly ...

Existing text

130. An enabling strategy, capacity-building and institutional development should aim at empowering all key actors, particularly local authorities, the private sector, the cooperative sector, trade unions, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, to enable them to play an effective role in human settlements planning and management. Concerted efforts in human resources and leadership development, institutional reform, organizational and management development and continuous training and retooling are necessary at all levels. This can best be achieved by national and international local authority associations/networks and by other national and subnational capacity-building institutions, although they themselves may first require strengthening. In developing countries and countries with economies in transition, Governments should accord a high priority to implementing a comprehensive policy for capacity-building. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and other relevant United Nations agencies and international financial and other organizations should help them to develop their capacity, identify and assess their institution-building priorities and strengthen their management capacity.

Proposals

Group of 77 and China

130. An enabling strategy, capacity-building and institutional development should aim at empowering all actors, particularly local authorities, the private sector, the cooperative sector, trade unions, non-governmental organizations and

community-based organizations, to enable them to play an effective role in human settlements planning and management. Concerted efforts in human resources and leadership development, institutional reform, organizational and management development and continuous training and retooling are necessary at all levels. This can best be achieved by national and international local authority associations/networks and by other national and subnational capacity-building institutions. In developing countries and countries with economies in transition, Governments should accord a high priority to implementing a comprehensive policy for capacity-building. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and other relevant United Nations agencies and international financial and other organizations should help them to develop their capacity, identify and assess their institution-building priorities and strengthen their management capacity.

Canada

130. An enabling strategy, capacity-building and institutional development should aim at empowering all key actors, particularly local authorities, the private sector, the cooperative sector, trade unions, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and indigenous people, to enable them to play an effective role in human settlements planning and management. Concerted efforts in human resources and leadership development, institutional reform, organizational and management development and continuous training and retooling are necessary at all levels. This can best be achieved by national and international local authority associations/networks and by other national and subnational capacity-building institutions, although they themselves may first require strengthening. In developing countries and countries with economies in transition, Governments should accord high priority to implementing a comprehensive policy for capacity-building. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and other relevant United Nations agencies and international financial and other organizations should help them to develop their capacity, identify and assess their institution-building priorities and strengthen their management capacity as appropriate.

European Union

130. An enabling strategy, capacity-building and institutional development should aim at empowering all key actors, particularly local authorities, the private sector, the cooperative sector, trade unions, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, to enable them to play an effective role in shelter and human settlements planning and management. The scale of capacity-building and institutional development needed is such that innovative thinking and organization are necessary. Concerted efforts in human resources and leadership development, institutional reform, organizational and management development and continuous training and retooling are necessary at all levels. This can best be achieved by national and international local authority associations/networks and by other national and subnational capacity-building institutions, although they themselves may first require strengthening. Capacity-building and institutional development strategies must form an integral part of human settlements development policies, at the national and local levels. In developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

Governments should accord a high priority to implementing a comprehensive policy for capacity-building.

130 bis. Empowerment and participation, are prerequisites for democracy. Good governance implies that policy formulation and implementation by Governments are guided by the principles of accountability, transparency and broad-based public participation. Accountability and transparency are imperative in order to prevent corruption and ensure that the available resources are used to the benefit of all people. Each Government should guarantee all members of its society the right to take an active part in the affairs of the community in which they live, and to ensure participation in policy-making at all levels.

United States of America

130. First sentence: An enabling strategy, capacity-building and institutional development should aim at empowering all stakeholders, particularly ...

Fourth sentence: ... policy for capacity-building, including the equal participation of women.

Last sentence: The international development community should help them to develop their capacity, identify and assess their institution-building priorities and strengthen their management capacity.

United Nations bodies

UNICEF

130. ... effective role in human settlements planning and management in the interest of children and future generations. Concerted ...

2. Decentralization and strengthening of local authorities and their associations/networks

Existing text

Actions

131. To ensure effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities and their associations/networks, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should:

(a) Adopt and adapt, as appropriate, policies and legal frameworks from other Member States that are implementing decentralization effectively;

(b) Review and revise, as appropriate, legislation to increase local autonomy in decision-making, implementation, and resource mobilization and use, especially with respect to human, technical and financial resources and local enterprise development, within the overall framework of a national, social, economic and environmental strategy;

(c) Support local authorities reviewing revenue-generating mechanisms;

(d) Facilitate the exchange of technology, experience and management expertise between local authorities in the delivery of services, expenditure control, resource mobilization, partnership-building and local enterprise development, inter alia, through technical twinning and exchange of experience programmes;

(e) Enhance the performance of local authorities by undertaking comparative analyses of, and disseminating information on innovative practices in, the delivery, operation and maintenance of public goods and services and in exploiting the fiscal potential of their cities;

(f) Help institutionalize broad-based participation in decision-making and management processes at the local level;

(g) Strengthen the capacity of local authorities to engage the local private and community sectors in goal-setting and in establishing local priorities and environmentally sound standards for infrastructure development and services delivery, and local economic development;

(h) Promote policy dialogue between all levels of government and the private and community sectors to improve planning and coordination;

(i) Collect, analyse and disseminate, as appropriate, comparative data on the performance of local authorities in providing for the needs of their citizens;

(j) Reinforce measures to eradicate corruption and ensure greater transparency, efficiency and community participation in the management of local resources;

(k) Enable local authorities and their associations/networks to take initiatives in national and international cooperation and in particular to share good practice and innovative approaches to sustainable human settlements management;

(l) Develop, in cooperation with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), associations/networks of local authorities and other international associations and organizations, a global and easily accessible information network to facilitate the exchange of experience, know-how and expertise.

Proposals

Group of 77 and China

131. To ensure effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities and their associations/networks, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, where appropriate, should:

(a) Adopt and adapt, as appropriate, policies and legal frameworks from other Member States that are implementing decentralization effectively;

(b) Review and revise, as appropriate, legislation to increase local autonomy and participation in decision-making, implementation, and resource mobilization and use, especially with respect to human, technical and financial resources and local enterprise development, within the overall framework of a national, social, economic and environmental strategy, and encourage the participation of the inhabitants in decision-making regarding their cities, neighbourhoods or dwellings;

(c) Support local authorities reviewing revenue-generating mechanisms;

(d) Facilitate the exchange of technology, experience and management expertise between local authorities in the delivery of services, expenditure control, resource mobilization, partnership-building and local enterprise development, inter alia, through technical twinning and exchange of experience programmes;

(e) Enhance the performance of local authorities by undertaking comparative analyses of, and disseminating information on innovative practices in, the delivery, operation and maintenance of public goods and services and in exploiting the fiscal and other potential of their cities;

(f) Encourage broad-based participation in decision-making and management processes at the local level;

(g) Strengthen the capacity of local authorities to engage the local private and community sectors in goal-setting and in establishing local priorities and environmentally sound standards for infrastructure development and services delivery, and local economic development;

(h) Promote policy dialogue among all levels of government and the private and community sectors to improve planning and coordination;

(i) Collect, analyse and disseminate, as appropriate, comparative data on the performance of local authorities in providing for the needs of their citizens;

(j) Reinforce measures to eradicate corruption and ensure greater transparency, efficiency and community participation in the management of local resources;

(k) Enable local authorities and their associations/networks to take initiatives in national and international cooperation and in particular to share information on good practice and innovative approaches to sustainable human settlements management;

(l) Develop, in cooperation with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), United Nations agencies, associations/networks of local authorities and other international associations and organizations, a global and

easily accessible information network to facilitate the exchange of experience, know-how and expertise.

Canada

131. To ensure effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities and their associations/networks, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should:

(c bis) Strengthen, where needed, the capacity of educational, research and training institutions to provide continuous training to local elected officials, managers and professionals on urban-related issues, such as planning, land and resource management techniques, and municipal finance;

(f) Help institutionalize broad-based participation, including consultative mechanisms, in decision-making and management processes at the local level;

(h) Promote policy dialogue between all levels of government and the private and community sectors and other representatives of civil society to improve planning and coordination and to reinforce a sense of community;

(j) Reinforce measures to eradicate corruption and ensure greater transparency, efficiency, accountability, responsiveness and community participation in the management of local resources;

(l) Encourage the further development and strengthening of associations/networks of local authorities and international associations and organizations and a global and easily accessible information network to facilitate the exchange of experience, know-how and expertise, with the cooperation of relevant United Nations bodies, as appropriate.

European Union

131. To ensure effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities and their associations/networks, Governments at the appropriate levels, should:

(i) Collect, analyse and disseminate, as appropriate, comparative data on the performance of local authorities in providing for the needs of their population;

(k bis) Strengthen the capacities of both central and local governments through training courses on urban finance and management for elected government officials and managers;

(l) Consider developing in cooperation with relevant international organizations, including United Nations bodies, within their existing resources, and with associations/networks of local authorities and other international associations and organizations - a global and easily accessible information network to facilitate the exchange of experience, know-how and expertise.

Holy See

131. (a) Adopt and adapt, as appropriate, policies and legal frameworks from other States that are implementing decentralization effectively;

(i) Collect, analyse and disseminate, as appropriate, comparative data on the performance of local authorities in providing for the needs of their population;

United States of America

131. (d) Facilitate the exchange of technology, experience and management expertise vertically between government agencies and horizontally among local authorities in the delivery of services, expenditure control, resource mobilization, partnership-building and local enterprise development, through technical twinning and exchange of experience programmes;

(j) Reinforce measures to increase the participation of women, eradicate corruption and ensure greater transparency, efficiency and community participation in the management of local resources;

(l) Develop, in collaboration with appropriate international organizations, associations/networks of local authorities and other international associations and organizations, a global and easily accessible information network to facilitate the exchange of experience, know-how expertise.

United Nations bodies

UNESCO

131. (b bis) Explore the possibility of drawing up a charter of solidarity and citizenship; organize periodically assemblies of solidarity and citizenship; develop education in citizenship, including a coherent and voluntary policy for open spaces; and establish, in order to symbolize these actions as a whole, an annual city day to emphasize the return of the citizen as actor in his own city;

(h) Within the framework of governance, conceived as a network of relationships between actors and agents of democracy, establish public-private-citizens' partnerships for urban innovation, and analyse, evaluate and disseminate information on successful partnerships;

(m) Promote a forward-looking perspective on the new forms of solidarity necessitated by the evolution of society;

(n) Devise action-oriented strategies to promote solidarity and citizenship in the city of the twenty-first century, particularly by supporting the popular urban economy.

UNICEF

131. (j) Reinforce measures to increase the participation of women, children and youth, eradicate corruption and ensure greater transparency, efficiency and community participation in the management of local resources;

3. Participation, civic engagement and government responsibility

Existing text

132. Sustainable human settlements development requires the active engagement of civil society organizations, as well as the broad-based participation of all people. It equally requires responsive, transparent and accountable governmental structures at all levels. Civic engagement and responsible government both necessitate the strengthening of participatory mechanisms, including access to justice and community-based action planning, which will ensure that all voices are heard in identifying problems and priorities, setting goals, exercising legal rights, determining service standards, mobilizing resources and implementing policies, programmes and projects.

Proposals

Group of 77 and China

Same as above text.

European Union

3. Participation, civic engagement and good governance

132. Sustainable human settlements development requires the active engagement of civil society organizations, as well as the broad-based participation of all people. It equally requires good governance at all levels, in particular responsive, transparent and accountable government at the local level. Civic engagement and responsible government both necessitate the strengthening of participatory mechanisms, including access to justice and community-based action planning, which will ensure that all voices are heard in identifying problems and priorities, setting goals, exercising legal rights, determining service standards, mobilizing resources and implementing policies, programmes and projects.

United States of America

132. Sustainable human settlements development requires the active engagement of civil society organizations, as well as the broad-based participation of all people. It equally requires responsive, transparent and accountable governance at all levels. Civic engagement and responsible government that welcome gender and socially diverse perspectives necessitate ...

United Nations bodies

UNICEF

132. ... will ensure that all voices are heard, including, in particular, those of women, youth, children, the elderly and all other vulnerable groups, in identifying ...

Existing text

Actions

133. To encourage and support participation, civic engagement and the fulfilment of governmental responsibilities, national Governments, local authorities and/or civil society organizations, as appropriate, should put into effect institutional and legal frameworks that facilitate and enable broad-based participation of all citizens in decision-making and in the implementation and monitoring of human settlements strategies, policies and programmes; these institutional and legal frameworks would be specifically aimed at, inter alia:

(a) Protecting the basic right to hold and express opinions and to disseminate ideas and information;

(b) Facilitating the formation of independent non-governmental local, national and international organizations;

(c) Providing full, timely and comprehensible information, without undue financial burden to the applicant;

(d) Undertaking civic education programmes, using all forms of the media and education and information campaigns to promote a civic spirit and an awareness of civil rights and responsibilities and the means of exercising them, and of issues relating to sustainable economic development and the quality of life;

(e) Establishing regular and broad-based consultative mechanisms for involving civil society in decision-making;

(f) Establishing agenda-setting participatory mechanisms enabling citizens, communities and civil society organizations to play a proactive role in identifying and formulating new policies, plans and projects;

(g) Fostering an understanding of contractual relationships with the private and non-governmental sectors to acquire the skills for negotiating effective partnerships for project implementation, development and management that will maximize benefits for all citizens;

(h) Promoting equality and equity, incorporating gender consideration and involving vulnerable and low-income groups through institutional measures to ensure that their interests are represented in policy- and decision-making processes and through such techniques as advocacy training and seminars,

including the development of mediation and consensus-building skills to facilitate effective networking and alliance formation;

(i) Improving access to judicial and administrative channels for affected groups so that they can challenge, or seek redress from socially and environmentally harmful decisions and actions, including legal mechanisms to ensure that State bodies remain accountable for their actions, in accordance with their social and environmental obligations as defined in national legislation;

(j) Facilitating access to legal services by low-income groups through the provision of such facilities as legal aid and free legal advice centres;

(k) Strengthening the capacity of local authorities and civil society organizations to review social, economic and environmental policies affecting their communities and to set local priorities and contribute to the setting of local standards for services in such areas as basic education, public health, public safety, drug-abuse awareness and environmental management;

(l) Using new information technologies to promote the exchange of information, experiences and practices among citizens, groups of key actors and decision makers.

Proposals

Group of 77 and China

133. (d) Undertaking civic education programmes, using all forms of the media and education and information campaigns to promote a civic encouragement and an awareness of civil rights and responsibilities and the means of exercising them, and of issues relating to sustainable economic development and the quality of life;

(g) Fostering an understanding of contractual and other relationships with the private and non-governmental sectors to acquire the skills for negotiating effective partnerships for project implementation, development and management that will maximize benefits for all citizens;

(h) Promoting equality and equity, incorporating gender considerations and involving vulnerable groups, including low-income groups, through institutional measures to ensure that their interests are represented in policy- and decision-making processes and through such techniques as advocacy training and seminars, including the development of mediation and consensus-building skills to facilitate effective networking and alliance formation;

(i) Improving access to judicial and administrative channels for affected groups so that they can challenge, or seek redress from socially and environmentally harmful decisions and actions, including legal mechanisms to ensure that State bodies and other civil organizations remain accountable for their actions, in accordance with their social and environmental obligations as defined in national legislation;

Canada

133. To encourage and support participation, civic engagement and the fulfilment of governmental responsibilities, national Governments, local authorities and/or civil society organizations, as appropriate, should put into effect institutional and legal frameworks that facilitate and enable the broad-based participation of all individuals in decision-making and in the implementation and monitoring of human settlements strategies, policies and programmes; these institutional and legal frameworks would be specifically aimed at, inter alia:

(a) Protecting the right to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart ideas and information;

(f) Establishing agenda-setting participatory mechanisms enabling individuals, communities, indigenous people and civil society organizations to play a proactive role in identifying local needs and priorities and formulating new policies, plans and projects;

(g) Fostering an understanding of contractual relationships with the private and non-governmental sectors to acquire the skills for negotiating effective partnerships for project implementation, development and management that will maximize benefits for all people;

(h) Promoting equality, incorporating gender considerations and the full and equal participation of women, and involving vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including people living in poverty and low-income groups, through institutional measures to ensure that their interests are represented in policy- and decision-making processes and through such techniques as advocacy training and seminars, including the development of mediation and consensus-building skills to facilitate effective networking and alliance formation;

(i) Improving access to judicial and administrative channels for affected groups so that they can challenge or seek redress from socially and environmentally harmful decisions and actions, including legal mechanisms to ensure that State bodies remain accountable for their actions, in accordance with their social and environmental obligations;

(j) Facilitating access to legal services by people living in poverty and low-income groups through the provision of such facilities as legal aid and free legal advice centres;

(k) Strengthening the capacity of local authorities and the civil society to review social, economic and environmental policies affecting their communities and to set local priorities and contribute to the setting of local standards for services in such areas as basic education, public health, public safety, drug-abuse awareness and environmental management;

(l) Promoting the use of new information technologies and the media, including local media to facilitate dialogue, to exchange relevant information, experiences and practices on human settlements and to form constructive partnerships among the civil society and decision makers.

European Union

133. To encourage and support participation, civic engagement and the fulfilment of governmental responsibilities, national Governments, local authorities and/or civil society organizations, as appropriate, should put into effect institutional and legal frameworks that facilitate and enable broad-based participation of all individuals in decision-making and in the implementation and monitoring of human settlements strategies, policies and programmes; these institutional and legal frameworks would be specifically aimed at, inter alia:

(a) Protecting the human right to hold and express opinions and to disseminate ideas and information;

(f) Establishing agenda-setting participatory mechanisms enabling individuals, communities and civil society organizations to play a proactive role in identifying and formulating new policies, plans and projects;

(g) Fostering an understanding of contractual relationships with the private and non-governmental sectors to acquire the skills for negotiating effective partnerships for project implementation, development and management that will maximize benefits for all people;

(h) Promoting equality, incorporating gender strategies and involving vulnerable and low-income groups through institutional measures to ensure that their interests are represented in policy- and decision-making processes and through such techniques as advocacy training and seminars, including the development of mediation and consensus-building skills to facilitate effective networking and alliance formation;

(i) Improving access to judicial and administrative channels for affected groups so that they can challenge or seek redress from socially and environmentally harmful decisions and actions that are socially or environmentally harmful or violate human rights, including legal mechanisms to ensure that State bodies remain accountable for their actions, in accordance with their social and environmental human rights obligations;

(k) Strengthening the capacity of local authorities and civil society organizations to review social, economic and environmental policies affecting their communities and to set local priorities and contribute to the setting of local standards for services in such areas as basic education, child care, public health, public safety, drug-abuse awareness and environmental management;

(l) Using new information technologies to promote the exchange of information, experiences and practices among citizens, groups of key actors and decision makers.

Holy See

133. (f) Establishing agenda-setting participatory mechanisms enabling individuals, families, communities and civil society organizations to play a proactive role in identifying and formulating new policies, plans and projects;

United States of America

133. To encourage and support participation, civic engagement and the fulfilment of government responsibilities, national Governments, local authorities and/or civil society organizations, as appropriate, should put into effect institutional and legal frameworks that facilitate and enable broad-based participation of all people in decision-making and in the implementation and monitoring of human settlements strategies, policies and programmes; these institutional and legal frameworks would be specifically aimed at:

(e) Establishing regular and broad-based consultative mechanisms for involving both women and men in the decision-making process for all major policies, plans and programmes that will affect their lives;

(e bis) Removing legal barriers to participation in public life by socially marginalized groups and promoting non-discrimination legislation;

(f) Establishing agenda-setting participatory mechanisms enabling individuals, communities and civil society organizations to play a proactive role in identifying and formulating new policies, plans and projects;

(g) Fostering an understanding of contractual relationships with the private and non-governmental sectors to acquire the skills for negotiating effective partnerships for project implementation, development and management that will maximize benefits for all people;

(h) Promoting equality and fairness by incorporating gender considerations and involving vulnerable and low-income groups, including people with disabilities, through institutional measures to ensure that their interests are represented in policy- and decision-making processes and through such techniques as advocacy training and seminars, including those that develop mediating and consensus-building skills that will facilitate effective networking and alliance formation;

(i) Improving access to judicial and administrative channels for affected persons and groups so that they can challenge, or seek redress from socially and environmentally harmful decisions and actions, including legal mechanisms to ensure that State bodies remain accountable for their actions, in accordance with their social and environmental obligations as stated in national legislation;

(j) Facilitating access to decision-making and planning structures and legal services by low-income groups through the provision of such facilities as legal aid and free legal advice centres.

United Nations bodies

FAO

133. (k) Strengthening the capacity of local authorities and civil society organizations to review social, economic and environmental policies affecting

their communities and to set local priorities and contribute to the setting of local standards for services in such areas as basic education, public health, water for domestic, agricultural and industrial use, public infrastructure, public safety, drug-abuse awareness and environmental management;

UNICEF

133. (d) Undertaking civic and human rights education and training programmes, using all forms of the media and education and information campaigns, to promote a civic spirit and an awareness of civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights and responsibilities and the means of exercising and enjoying them, of the changing roles of women and men and of issues relating to sustainable economic development and the quality of life;

(e bis) Removing legal barriers to participation in public life by socially marginalized groups and promoting non-discrimination legislation;

(i) Improving access to judicial and administrative or other remedies or channels for affected persons and groups so that they can challenge or seek redress from socially and environmentally harmful decisions and actions, including legal mechanisms to ensure that all State bodies both national and local, remain legally accountable for their actions or omissions, in accordance with their social, environmental and human rights obligations as stated in national legislation and international legal commitments;

(j) Facilitating access to legal services by low-income groups, street children and working children through the provision of such facilities as legal aid and free legal advice centres, as well as to decision-making and planning structures;

Existing text

134. Human settlements managers need to draw on the skills and resources of a diversity of people and institutions at many levels. The scarcity of suitably qualified personnel and the weakness of institutional systems and technical capacity are among the main obstacles to the improvement of human settlements in many countries. In addition, the use of new skills, know-how and technology in all aspects of human settlements planning and management will be necessary. In countries where change is rapid, there is a need for Governments and the international community to ensure the effective development and transfer of leadership skills, management expertise, know-how and technology.

Proposals

Group of 77 and China

134. Human settlements managers need to draw on the skills and resources of a diversity of people and institutions at many levels. The scarcity of suitably qualified personnel and the weakness of institutional systems and technical capacity are among the main obstacles to the improvement of human settlements in many countries, particularly in developing ones. In addition, the use of new skills, know-how and technology in all aspects of human settlements planning and

management will be necessary. In countries where change is rapid, there is a need for Governments and the international community to ensure the effective and efficient development and transfer of leadership skills, planning and management expertise, know-how and technology.

Canada

134. Local authorities and other involved human settlements managers need to draw on the skills and resources of a diversity of people and institutions at many levels. The scarcity of suitably qualified personnel and the weakness of institutional systems and technical capacity are among the main obstacles to the improvement of human settlements in many countries. In addition, the use of new skills, know-how and technology in all aspects of human settlements planning and management will be necessary. In countries where changes in human settlements patterns are rapid, resulting in socio-economic and environmental challenges, there is a need for Governments and the international community to ensure the effective development and transfer of leadership skills, management expertise, know-how and technology.

Mexico

Insert a heading above paragraph 134: 3 bis. Human settlements management

United States of America

134. ... leadership skills, management expertise, gender-sensitive governance policies and technology.

United Nations bodies

UNESCO

134. ... know-how and technology. Recognize research in the social and human sciences (philosophy, sociology and socio-economy, among others) as a socially useful task, accompanied by ways of democratic development of the formulation of questions. Clarify city-related concepts and words in use with the aim of preparing a multicultural and multi-ethnic glossary on the city.

Existing text

Actions

135. To improve human settlements management, Governments, at the appropriate levels, including local authorities and their associations, should:

(a) Support training programmes for administrators and civic officials at all levels, as appropriate, to enhance leadership qualities;

(b) Establish private-public, community sector, business and economic forums to facilitate the transfer of management know-how and experience;

(c) Develop and implement comprehensive training, education and human resources development policies and programmes involving a wide range of local authority associations, as well as academic, research, training and educational institutions and the private sector, focusing on:

(i) The development of a multisectoral approach to human settlements development;

(ii) The training of trainers to develop a core capacity for institution-strengthening and capacity-building;

(iii) The development of local capacity to define needs and undertake or commission applied research, particularly in social and environmental impact assessments, local economic growth and job creation, and to incorporate the findings in management systems;

(d) Develop information systems for the exchange, transfer and sharing of experience, expertise, know-how and technology in human settlements management;

(e) Encourage, as appropriate, the involvement of private-sector entities in improving public-sector management and administration and the formation of entities that are public in their function, private in their management and publicly-privately funded;

(f) Develop programmes in conflict resolution.

Proposals

Group of 77 and China

135. (b) Establish private-public, community sector, business and economic forums to exchange management know-how and experience;

(c) Develop and implement comprehensive training, education and human resources development policies and programmes involving local authority associations across the spectrum, as well as academic, research, training and educational institutions, and the private sector, focusing on:

(i) The development of a multisectoral approach to human settlements development;

(ii) The training of trainers to develop a core capacity for institution-strengthening and capacity-building;

(iii) The development of local capacity to define needs and undertake or commission applied research, particularly in social and environmental impact assessments, shelter strategy formulation, local economic growth and job creation, and to incorporate the findings in management systems;

(f) Develop programmes in conflict resolution and train civil society in their use.

Canada

135. To improve human settlements planning and management, Governments ...

(c) ... focusing on:

(iii) The development of local capacity to define needs and undertake or commission applied research, particularly in gender-based analysis, in social and environmental impact assessments, local economic growth and job creation, and to incorporate the findings in management systems;

European Union

135. To facilitate capacity-building and institutional development for the improvement of human settlements management, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities and their associations, should:

(a) Support training programmes for administrators and civic officials at all levels, and for all other key-actors, as appropriate, to enhance leadership qualities;

(b) Consider establishing private-public, community sector, business and economic forums to facilitate the transfer of management know-how and experience;

(c) Promote comprehensive training, education and human resources development policies and programmes ...;

(e) When appropriate, encourage, within the context of transparency and accountability, as appropriate, the involvement of private-sector entities in improving public-sector management and administration and the formation of entities that are public in their function, private in their management and publicly-privately funded;

(f) Consider developing programmes in conflict resolution;

(g) Be encouraged to increase their knowledge about the eco-cycles involving their cities so as to prevent environmental damage;

United States of America

135. (e) Encourage, as appropriate, the involvement of private-sector entities, including non-governmental organizations, in improving public-sector management and administration and the formation of entities that are public in their function, private in their management and publicly-privately funded;

(f) Develop programmes in conflict resolution;

(g) Integrate gender-sensitive policies and standards in each of the subcategories above.

United Nations bodies

UNESCO

135. To improve human settlements management by respecting their cultural and natural environment, Governments ...:

(c) Develop and implement comprehensive training, education and the development of human resources, taking into account the existing potential in cultural and folk art approaches, as well as policies and programmes involving a wide range of local authority associations, and academic, research, training and educational institutions and the private sector, focusing on ...;

UNICEF

135. (a) As appropriate, support training programmes that reflect gender-sensitivity policies and standards, quality assurance measurement tools for administrators and civic officials at all levels, as appropriate, to enhance leadership qualities and promote the inclusion of women and young people in staff structures and decision-making;

(c) (ii) The training of trainers to develop a core capacity for institution-strengthening and capacity-building that includes an emphasis on greater gender awareness and the needs of children and youth as an integral component;

4. Metropolitan planning and management

Existing text

136. Although the managers of human settlements face many common challenges, those responsible for the management and development of metropolitan areas and mega-cities face unique problems caused by the size and complexity of their tasks and responsibilities. Among the characteristics of metropolitan areas that require special skills are increasing global competitiveness; their ethnically and culturally diverse populations; large concentrations of urban poverty; extensive infrastructure networks and transport and communications systems; their strategic role in national, regional and international production and consumption cycles, economic development, trade and finance; and their potential for severe environmental degradation. Large metropolitan areas and mega-cities also represent the largest potential risks of human, material and production-capacity loss in the case of natural and human-made disasters. In some countries, the lack of a metropolitan-wide authority creates difficulties in urban management.

Proposals

Group of 77 and China

136. ... creates difficulties in urban management.

European Union

136. ... and consumption patterns, economic development, trade and finance; and their potential for severe environmental degradation. Large metropolitan areas and mega-cities also represent the largest potential risks of human, material and production-capacity loss in the case of natural and human-made disasters. In some countries, the lack of a metropolitan-wide authority or effective metropolitan-wide cooperation creates difficulties in urban management.

Holy See

136. ... ethnically, culturally and spiritually diverse populations ...

United States of America

136 bis. It is important to remember that there are unique opportunities for achieving a more sustainable future that can be realized only through successful small towns and rural settlements. These smaller scale communities typically bring producers and consumers of food, fibre and natural resources closer together, thereby reducing the energy consumed in meeting human needs. They are often the vital support centres for the agricultural, aquacultural and resource industries upon which urban centres depend. Without successful small towns and rural settlements our cities could not work. In addition, the smaller communities, like active and involved urban neighbourhoods, create a sense of shared future and mutual responsibility, which is sometimes difficult to achieve in larger scale communities. Addressing the barriers to the success of these smaller communities creates unique challenges as well. Problems shared with larger human settlements need solutions that are sensitive to differences in scale and access to resources. It is also necessary that all relevant stakeholders recognize that there may be special problems not shared by larger communities, which are important to address.

Existing text

Actions

137. To address the special needs of metropolitan areas, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should:

(a) Promote metropolitan-wide planning and management strategies;

(b) Monitor and analyse the effectiveness and efficiency of metropolitan structures and administrative systems and incorporate the results into public policy for dealing with macroeconomic, social and environmental issues;

(c) Create a legislative framework and adopt organizational structures that ensure coordinated and efficient service delivery, resource mobilization and sustainable development throughout metropolitan areas;

(d) Strengthen the capacity and mandates of metropolitan authorities to deal effectively with issues of regional and national importance, such as land,

energy and water resources management, environmental management, transport and communications, trade and finance, and social integration;

(e) Develop, or where necessary, create a core of professional staff trained in the technical aspects of planning and development of primary infrastructure and in emergency planning;

(f) Facilitate and promote policy dialogue and the exchange of experience, expertise, know-how and technology between metropolitan authorities in such areas as transport and communications, waste management, energy conservation, social welfare and environmental management.

Proposals

Group of 77 and China

137. To address the special needs of metropolitan areas, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should:

(a) Promote metropolitan-wide planning, development and management strategies;

(b) Monitor and analyse the effectiveness and efficiency of metropolitan structures and administrative systems and incorporate the results into policies for dealing with macroeconomic, social and environmental issues;

(f) Facilitate and promote policy dialogue and the exchange of experience, expertise, know-how and technology among metropolitan authorities in such areas as transport and communications, waste management, energy conservation, social welfare and environmental management.

Canada

137. (a bis) Adopt and apply metropolitan management guidelines in the areas of land, environment and infrastructure management, as well as finance and administration;

Australia

137. (a) Promote metropolitan-wide planning and management strategies that address all aspects of urban activities in an integrated manner and that are based on agreed outcomes for the metropolitan area;

(e) Develop, or where necessary, create a core of professional staff trained in urban planning, environmental management, engineering, transportation, and communication and social services, for example, and who have the skills to work together to address the major planning issues for metropolitan areas in an integrated way;

European Union

137. To address the special needs of metropolitan areas, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should:

(c) Create a legislative framework and adopt organizational structures that ensure coordinated and efficient equitable service delivery, resource mobilization and sustainable development throughout metropolitan areas;

(d) Strengthen, as appropriate, the capacity and mandates of metropolitan authorities to deal effectively with, or respond to, issues of regional and national importance, such as land, energy and water resources management, environmental management, transport and communications, trade and finance, and social integration;

(f) Facilitate and promote policy dialogue and the exchange of experience, expertise, know-how and technology between metropolitan authorities in such areas as transport and communications, water management and waste-water treatment, waste management, energy conservation, social welfare and environmental management.

United States of America

137. To address the needs of all people within metropolitan areas, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should:

(a) Promote metropolitan-wide and regional planning and management strategies;

(a bis) Incorporate the concerns of women in those planning and management strategies;

5. Domestic financial resources and economic instruments

Existing text

138. Funds to finance shelter and settlements development mainly come from domestic sources. Additional finance is increasingly being derived from international sources for the benefit of national Governments and local authorities. The largest impact on the financial base will derive, therefore, from improvements in economic development, sound financial practice and the capacity to mobilize domestic resources, control expenditure and manage budgets efficiently.

Proposals

Group of 77 and China

Same text as above.

United States of America

138. Funds to finance shelter and settlements development mainly come from domestic sources. The largest impact on the financial base will derive, therefore, from improvements in economic development, sound financial practice and the capacity to mobilize domestic resources, control expenditures and manage budgets efficiently.

Existing text

139. Financing the future of urban development and sustaining the economic viability of cities represents a particular challenge, which will require innovative systems of finance at the national and local levels. Effective partnerships between the public and private sectors are needed that combine local taxes on production and consumption with fiscal incentives for investment by industry, commerce, trade and the private service sector. New forms of municipal finance are needed to meet the future needs of urban economic development and the costs of supporting infrastructure and services.

Proposals

Group of 77 and China

139. Financing the future of urban development and sustaining the economic viability of cities represents a particular challenge, which will require innovative systems of finance at the national and local levels. Effective partnerships between the public and private sectors should be promoted, combining local taxes on production and consumption with fiscal incentives for investment by industry, commerce, trade and other private sector services. New forms of municipal finance are needed to meet the future needs of urban economic development and the costs of supporting infrastructure and services.

European Union

139. ... Effective partnerships between the public and private sectors are needed that combine taxes on production and consumption with fiscal incentives for investment by industry, commerce, trade and the private service sector. Forms of municipal finance should be reviewed to meet the future needs of urban economic development and the costs of supporting infrastructure and services.

Existing text

140. To strengthen the national and local economies and financial base with a view to addressing the needs of sustainable human settlements development, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should:

(a) Strengthen, as appropriate, the capacity of local authorities to attract investments;

(b) Adopt macroeconomic policies and frameworks that encourage increased domestic savings and facilitate their use in housing, basic infrastructure and settlements development;

(c) Develop efficient, equitable and buoyant sources of national and local revenues, including taxation, user charges, tariffs and betterment fees, to promote national and local capacity for capital investment in housing, infrastructure and basic services, and devise, as appropriate, new financial instruments that penalize environmental damage;

(d) Enhance national and local tax collection capabilities and expenditure control;

(e) Strive for full cost recovery for urban services through user charges, while at the same time addressing the needs of the poor, inter alia, through pricing policies and, where appropriate, transparent subsidies;

(f) Support local efforts to encourage voluntary private and community sector partnerships and participation in building, operating and maintaining basic infrastructure and services;

(g) Rationalize and facilitate local authorities' access to national, regional and international capital markets and specialized lending institutions, inter alia, through instituting municipal credit rating and credit systems, bearing in mind the borrowers' capacity to repay the debt;

(h) Facilitate the role of local authorities in forming partnerships with the private, community and cooperative sectors and institutions for local enterprise development;

(i) Institutionalize budget mechanisms, where appropriate, and accounting to enable local authorities to engage in medium- and long-term investment programmes;

(j) Establish transparent systems and procedures to ensure financial accountability;

(k) Institutionalize, where appropriate, transparent, intergovernmental transfer mechanisms that are timely, predictable and performance- and need-based;

(l) Attract private investment to urban development.

Proposals

Group of 77 and China

140. To strengthen the national and local economic and financial base with a view to addressing the needs of sustainable human settlements development, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should:

(b) Adopt macroeconomic policies and frameworks that encourage increased domestic savings and facilitate their use in housing, basic infrastructure and other settlements development;

(c) Develop efficient, equitable and buoyant sources of national and local revenues, including taxation, user charges, tariffs and betterment levies, to promote national and local capacity for capital investment in housing, infrastructure and basic services, and devise, as appropriate, new financial instruments that penalize environmental damage;

(g) Facilitate local authorities' access to national, regional and international capital markets and specialized lending institutions, inter alia, through instituting municipal credit rating and credit systems, bearing in mind the borrowers' capacity to repay the debt;

(l) Attract private and community investment to urban development.

Canada

140. To strengthen the national and local economic and financial base with a view to addressing the needs of sustainable human settlements development, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should, as appropriate:

(a) Strengthen the capacity of local authorities to attract investments;

(c) Develop efficient, equitable and buoyant sources of national and local revenues, including taxation, user charges, tariffs and betterment fees, to promote national and local capacity for capital investment in housing, infrastructure and basic services, and devise, as appropriate, new fiscal instruments that penalize environmental damage;

European Union

140. To strengthen the national and local economies and financial base with a view to addressing the needs of sustainable human settlements development, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should seek to provide an enabling framework which aims to:

(f) Support local efforts to encourage voluntary private and community sector partnerships and participation in building, operating and maintaining basic infrastructure and services, and open green spaces;

(h) Facilitate the role of local authorities in forming partnerships with the private, voluntary, community and cooperative sectors and institutions for local enterprise development;

Holy See

140. (c) Develop efficient, fair, equitable and buoyant sources of national and local revenues, including taxation, user charges, tariffs and betterment fees, to promote national and local capacity for capital investment in housing, infrastructure and basic services, and devise, as appropriate, new financial instruments that penalize environmental damage;

Mexico

140. (g) Rationalize and facilitate local authorities' access to national, regional and international capital markets and specialized lending institutions, including, inter alia, through instituting municipal credit rating and credit systems, bearing in mind the borrowers' capacity to repay the debt in accordance with national regulations;

United States of America

140. (a) Strengthen, as appropriate, local authorities in order to attract investments;

(e) Strive for full cost recovery for urban services, with the exception of public safety services, through user charges, while at the same time addressing the needs of the poor, inter alia, through pricing policies and, where appropriate, transparent subsidies;

(g) Rationalize and facilitate local authorities' access to national, regional and international capital markets and specialized lending institutions, by instituting measures to establish independent credit rating systems, bearing in mind the borrowers' capacity to repay the debt;

6. Information and communications

Existing text

141. Recent developments in information technology, in conjunction with the liberalization of trade and the free flow of capital on a global scale, will bring about radical changes in the roles and functions of cities and their decision-making and resource allocation processes. Those Governments that make the necessary investments in information technology and infrastructure and enable and empower their citizens to make effective use of such technology can expect to foster tremendous productivity gains in industry, trade and commerce. This improved information technology should be appropriately and optimally utilized to preserve and share moral values and enhance and improve education, training and public awareness of the social, economic and environmental issues affecting the quality of life, and to facilitate access by all key actors and communities to the exchange of habitat practices, including those that uphold the rights of children, women and other vulnerable groups in the context of growing urbanization.

Proposals

Group of 77 and China

141. Recent developments in information technology, in conjunction with the liberalization of trade and the free flow of capital on a global scale, will bring about radical changes in the roles and functions of cities and their decision-making and resource allocation processes. Those Governments that make the necessary investments in information technology and infrastructure and

enable and empower their citizens to make effective use of such technology can expect to foster tremendous productivity gains in industry, trade and commerce. This improved information technology should be appropriately and optimally utilized to preserve and share cultural and moral values and enhance and improve education, training and public awareness of the social, economic and environmental issues affecting the quality of life, and to facilitate access by all actors and communities to the exchange of habitat practices, including those that uphold the rights of children, women and other vulnerable groups in the context of growing urbanization.

Canada

141. ... women and other vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in the context of growing urbanization.

European Union

141. Developments in information technology, in conjunction with the liberalization of trade and the free flow of capital on a global scale, will change the roles and functions of cities, and their decision-making and resource allocation processes. Such improved information technology and databases should be appropriately and optimally utilized to enhance and ...

United States of America

141. Recent developments in information and communication technology, in conjunction with the liberalization of trade and the free flow of capital on a global scale, will bring about opportunities to shape the roles and functions of cities and their decision-making and resource allocation processes. Societies that make the necessary investments in information technology and infrastructure and enable and empower their citizens to make effective use of such technology can expect to foster sustainable productivity gains in industry, trade and commerce. This improved technology should be appropriately and optimally utilized to improve education, training and public awareness of the social, economic and environmental issues affecting the quality of life, to preserve and share moral values and to facilitate access by all key actors and communities to the exchange of habitat practices, including those that uphold the rights of children, women, people with disabilities, the frail elderly and other vulnerable groups in the context of growing urbanization.

Existing text

Actions

142. To improve the capacity to exploit these innovations, Governments and local authorities should:

(a) Upgrade information infrastructure and technology and encourage their use by all levels of government, public institutions and civil society organizations;

(b) Train key actors in the use of information technology;

(c) Develop methods of sharing experiences of local initiatives through electronic means, such as the Internet, networks and libraries, and of disseminating information on best practices;

(d) Encourage the participation of children, youth and educational institutions in the use of public libraries and communications networks;

(e) Facilitate the learning process through the dissemination of both successful and unsuccessful experiences in human settlements taken from the governmental, public, private and community sectors;

(f) Encourage policies that make information technology and services available and more accessible to the general public;

(g) Guarantee the free flow of, and access to, information in areas of public policy, decision-making and resource allocation.

Proposals

Group of 77 and China

142. To improve the capacity to exploit these innovations, Governments at all appropriate levels, including local authorities, should:

(a) Develop, upgrade and maintain information infrastructure and technology and encourage their use by all levels of Government, public institutions and civil society organizations;

(b) Train key actors in the use, ways and means of information technology;

(c) Develop methods of sharing experiences of local initiatives through electronic means, such as the Internet, networks and libraries and of disseminating information on best practices;

(d) Encourage, especially by children and youth, the use of public libraries and communications networks;

(e) Facilitate the learning process through the dissemination of both successful and unsuccessful experiences in human settlements taken from the governmental, public, private and community sectors;

(f) Encourage policies that make information technology and services available and more accessible to the general public;

(g) Guarantee the free flow of, and access to, information in areas of public policy, decision-making and resource allocation.

142 bis. The dissemination of experiences that contribute to facilitating access to adequate housing for all and the development of sustainable human settlements is helpful in the formulation of public policies on human settlements development. National Governments, in partnership with social actors should:

(a) Promote the selection of urban management practices that stand out because of their positive impact on improving habitat, their use of participatory modes of organization and operation, their sustainable and lasting character, and their tendency to become universal;

(b) Set up structures for the selection of best practices, with the participation of non-governmental organizations active in the urban development field;

(c) Promote dissemination of the practices, selected locally, nationally, regionally and internationally, in an integrated manner.

European Union

142. To improve the capacity to exploit these innovations, Governments and local authorities should, as appropriate:

(a) Upgrade information infrastructure and technology and encourage their use by all levels of Government, public institutions and civil society organizations;

(b) Promote the training of key actors in the use of information technology;

(d) Encourage the participation of children, youth and educational institutions in the use of public libraries and communications networks;

(e) (See para. 142 bis, subpara. (d) below);

(f) Encourage policies that make information technology and services available and more accessible to the general public;

(g) (See para. 142 bis, subpara. (e) below).

142 bis. To increase the knowledge and strengthen the information base, Governments and local authorities, together with research institutions, statistical offices and other stakeholders, should:

(a) Promote research on economic, social and environmental aspects related to urbanization, human settlements and shelter development, focusing on research priorities identified on the basis of national requirements and the need for systematic monitoring and assessment of development, including environmental and social impacts of human settlement policies, programmes and projects, and paying attention to gender-specificities;

(b) Strengthen existing human settlements related information systems by adopting efficient and sustainable methodologies and institutional arrangements, by systematically incorporating research results and by compiling, analysing and updating data for human settlements and shelter statistics and policy-sensitive indicators;

(c) Disseminate research indicators and other information widely, mainstream their results in policy-making at all levels and ensure a two-way flow of information between producers and users of information;

(d) Facilitate the learning process through the dissemination of both successful and unsuccessful experiences in human settlements taken from the governmental, public, private and community sectors;

(e) Promote the free flow of, and access to, information in areas of public policy, decision-making and resource allocation.

United States of America

142. (f) Guarantee the free flow of and access to information technology and services, making them available and more accessible to the general public;

(f bis) Give special attention to providing access to these new technologies for persons with disabilities;

(g bis) Assure market competition and broad public access in the provision of communication and information technology through a public role in maintaining access to communication and information technology.

United Nations bodies

UNESCO

142. (a) Upgrade information infrastructure and technology and encourage their use by all levels of Government, public institutions and civil society organizations and consider communications as an integral part of all public policies concerned with urban environment;

(b) Train key actors in the use of information technology and of communication concerned with urban policy, in particular journalists, urban planners, mayors and the staff of land collectives;

(f) Encourage policies that make information technology and services available and more accessible to the general public, in particular by the wide use of the media;

UNICEF

142. (b) Develop and implement affordable, accessible, training programmes for children, women, youth, the disabled and other marginalized groups in the use of information and communication technology;

(d) Implement programmes that encourage the participation of children, youth, women, the disabled and other marginalized groups, and educational institutions in the use of public libraries and communication networks;

2. Suggestions forwarded by the United States of America

NGO composite

130. An enabling strategy, capacity-building and institutional development should aim at empowering all key actors, particulary women, local authorities, the local private sector, the cooperative sector, trade unions, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, to enable them to play an effective role in human settlements planning and management. Concerted efforts in human resources and leadership development, institutional reform, organizational and management development and continuous training and retooling are necessary at all levels. This can best be achieved by national and international local authority associations/networks and by other national and subnational capacity-building institutions, although they themselves may first require strengthening. In developing countries and countries with economies in transition, Governments should accord a high priority to implementing a comprehensive policy for capacity-building to ensure the equal participation of women. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and other relevant United Nations agencies and international financial and other organizations should help them to develop their capacity, identify and assess their institution-building priorities and strengthen their management capacity.

131. (a) Adopt and adapt, as appropriate, policies and legal frameworks from other Member States that are implementing decentralization effectively in an entrepreneurial public management spirit. In that respect, building capacity and capability, together with granting fiscal and administrative autonomy to lower levels of government, is crucial for effective decentralization;

(c) Support local authorities reviewing revenue-generating mechanisms and adopting modern municipal accounting systems;

(d) Facilitate the exchange of technology, experience and management expertise between local authorities in the provision and delivery of services, expenditure control, resource mobilization, partnership building and local enterprise development, inter alia, through technical twinning and exchange of experience programmes;

(f bis) Encourage local authorities to delegate further their discretionary authority to community-based organizations and facilitate cooperation and interaction between them;

(g bis) Encourage the initiatives of community-based organizations in the undertaking of community-level services;

(l) Develop, in collaboration with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), associations/networks of local authorities and other international associations and organizations, a global and easily accessible network to facilitate the exchange of experience, know-how and expertise, which takes full advantage of the immensely diverse historic, ethnic and cultural bases of human wisdom.

132. Sustainable human settlements development requires the active engagement of civil society organizations, as well as the broad-based participation of all people, which must include mechanisms to remove barriers faced by women. It equally ...

Caucus on older people

133. (h) Promoting equality and equity, incorporating gender and age considerations and ...;

(i) Improving access to judicial and administrative channels for disadvantaged groups so that they can challenge or seek redress from socially and environmentally harmful decisions and actions, including legal mechanisms to ensure that State bodies remain accountable for their actions, in accordance with their social and environmental obligations as defined in national legislation;

Coalition for stable communities

133. (h) Promoting equality and equity, incorporating gender and family considerations and ...;

International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres (IFS)

133. (a) Protecting the human right to hold ...;

(b) Permitting, facilitating and protecting the formation of ...;

(f) ... to play a constructive and substantive role ...;

(i) Providing and improving access to ... channels for affected groups and individuals ...;

(j) ... low-income groups and individuals ...;

(k) ... public health and other social services ... and environmental management, while safeguarding basic minimum standards and human rights;

NGO composite

133. (b) Facilitating the formation of independent non-governmental community, local, national and international organizations;

(d) Undertaking civic and human rights education and training programmes, using all forms of the media and education and information campaigns, to promote a civic spirit and an awareness of civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights and responsibilities and the means of exercising and enjoying them, of the changing roles of women and men and of issues relating to sustainable economic development and the quality of life;

(e) Establishing broad-based consultative mechanisms for involving civil society in decision-making where individuals or groups expect that they will be socially and environmentally affected by impending decisions or actions;

(h) Promoting equality and equity, incorporating gender considerations and involving marginalized and low-income groups through institutional measures to ensure that their interests are represented and that they are involved in policy- and decision-making processes, and through such techniques as advocacy training and seminars, including the development of mediating and consensus-building skills to facilitate effective networking and alliance formation;

(h bis) Removing legal barriers to participation in public life by socially marginalized groups and promoting non-discrimination legislation;

(i) Improving access to judicial and administrative channels for affected persons and groups to challenge or seek redress from socially and environmentally harmful decisions and actions, including legal mechanisms to ensure that all State bodies both national and local, remain accountable for their actions or omissions, in accordance with their social, environmental and human rights obligations as stated in national legislation and international legal commitments;

(i bis) Broadening the procedural right of individuals and civil society organizations to take legal action on behalf of affected communities or groups that do not have the resources or skills to take such action themselves;

(i ter) Promoting the representation of intergenerational interests, including children and future generations in decision-making processes;

(j) Facilitating access to legal services by low-income groups, including women and vulnerable and marginalized groups, through the provision of such facilities as legal aid and free legal advice centres;

(j bis) Improving access to reliable scientific and medical expertise without undue financial burden to the applicant;

(k) Strengthening the capacity of local authorities and civil society organizations to review social, economic and environmental policy affecting their community and to set local priorities and contribute to the setting of local standards for services in such areas as basic education, public health, water for domestic, agricultural and industrial use, public infrastructure, public safety, drug-abuse awareness and environmental management and to effectively feed these standards back into a coordinated national policy;

Caucus on older people

134. Human settlements managers need to draw on the skills and resources of a diversity of people, including community elders, and institutions at many levels to ensure that the special needs of all groups, particularly the vulnerable, are met. The scarcity of ...

NGO composite

134. Human settlements managers must acquire the skills and resources of a diversity of people that are experienced and aware of the physical and social service structures of communities and of institutions at all levels of development. The scarcity of qualified personnel, institutional systems, technical capacity and gender sensitive strategies is the main obstacle to the improvement of human settlements in many countries. Efforts should be made to build up the local and national scientific communities and their professional technical resources. In addition, the use of new skills, know-how and technology in all aspects of human settlements planning and management will be necessary. In countries where change is rapid there is a need for Governments and the international community to ensure the effective development and transfer of leadership skills, management expertise, gendered governance policies and technology.

Caucus on older people

135. (g) Encourage the direct involvement of groups in civil society, including youth and elders, in the betterment of human settlements.

NGO composite

135. (a) As appropriate, support training programmes that reflect gender sensitivity policies and standards and quality assurance measurement tools for administrators and civic officials at all levels to enhance leadership qualities and promote the inclusion of women and young people in staff structures and decision-making;

(b) Establish private-public-community-urban-rural sector, business and economic forums to facilitate the transfer of management know-how and experience;

(c) Develop and implement comprehensive training that ensures the empowerment of women, education and human resources development policies and programmes involving a wide range of local authority associations, academic, research, training and educational institutions and the private sector, focusing on:

(i) The development of an integrated multisectoral approach to human settlements development that includes the unique values and institutions of indigenous and immigrant populations in the district;

(ii) The training of trainers to develop a core capacity for institution-strengthening and capacity-building that includes an emphasis on gender awareness and the needs of children, youth and the elderly as an integral component;

(iii) The development of local capacity to define needs and undertake or commission applied research, particularly in social and environmental impact assessments, local economic growth and job creation that

emphasizes the integration of women in non-traditional fields and trades, and to incorporate the findings in management systems;

(e) Develop information systems for networking and accessing resources in a timely manner and for the exchange, transfer and sharing of experience, expertise, know-how and technology in human settlements management;

(f) Help develop mediation programmes to resolve conflicts that arise between competing agents over access to and distribution and use of resources and space in settlements.

NGO composite

136. ... Among the characteristics of metropolitan areas that require special skills to handle the negative impacts of the global economy on local economies are their ethnically and culturally diverse populations, which include women and marginalized groups; large concentrations of urban poverty within economically deprived zones; extensive infrastructure networks ...

NGO composite

137. (a) Promote metropolitan-wide planning and management strategies that include women at all levels of operation;

(d) Strengthen the capacity and mandates of metropolitan authorities to deal effectively with issues of regional and national importance, such as land and property rights for women, energy and water resources management, environmental management, access to adequate social infrastructure, transportation and communication, trade and finance, and social integration;

(e) Develop a coalition of professional staff which includes women in all areas of expertise who are trained in the technical aspects of planning and development of primary infrastructure and are responsive to emergency planning;

(f) Facilitate and promote policy dialogue and establish a consortium to facilitate the exchange of experience, expertise, know-how and technology between metropolitan authorities in such areas as transport and communications, waste management, energy conservation, social welfare that recognizes women and numerous marginalized groups, and environmental management;

(g) Look for value-driven solutions to urban problems that extend out of ethnically and culturally diverse populations rather than relying on new technologies alone.

NGO composite

138. Funds to finance transitional households and communities come mainly from domestic sources. Additional finance is increasingly being derived from international sources that promote and mandate the inclusion of women and gender-sensitive policies at all levels of planning for the benefit of national Governments and local authorities. The largest impact on the financial base will derive, therefore, from improvements in economic development, sound

financial practice and financial accountability, and the capacity to mobilize domestic resources, control expenditures and manage budgets, efficiently.

139. ... the costs of supporting infrastructure and services. It is necessary to reduce military expenditures and production in order to finance programmes for habitat.

140. (c) Develop efficient, equitable and buoyant sources of national and local revenues, including taxation, user charges, tariffs and betterment fees, to promote national and local capacity for investment in housing, infrastructure and basic services, and devise, as appropriate, new financial instruments that penalize environmental damage from both production and consumption activities;

(d) Enhance national and local tax collection capabilities and expenditure control to contain costs and increase the tax effort for revenue maximization;

Delete subparagraph (e).

(f) Support local efforts to encourage voluntary private and community sector partnerships and participation in building, operating and maintaining basic infrastructure and services that employ gender-sensitive policies, address the needs of marginalized groups and empower women with financial resources for home acquisition;

(g) Rationalize and facilitate local authorities' access to national, regional and international capital markets and specialized lending institutions, inter alia, through instituting municipal credit rating and credit systems that guarantee that women are integral in programme development, bearing in mind the borrower's capacity to repay the debt;

(m) Use a reduction of national military budgets to fund local programmes for human settlements.

Caucus on older people

141. ... including those that uphold the rights of children, women, the disabled, the frail elderly, the displaced and other vulnerable groups in the context of growing urbanization.

Coalition for stable communities

141. ... including those that uphold the rights of the family, children, women and other vulnerable groups in the context of growing urbanization.

NGO composite

141. Recent developments in information technology, in conjunction with the liberalization of trade and the free flow of capital on a global scale, are bringing about radical changes in the roles and functions of cities and their decision-making and resources allocation processes. Those Governments that make the necessary investments in information technology and infrastructure and enable and empower their citizens to make effective use of such technology can

expect to foster tremendous additional productivity gains in industry, trade and commerce. However in many countries these productivity gains have benefited only a fortunate few, while contributing to increasing income inequality and unemployment. Furthermore, these technologies are available only to those who can afford them and place the substantial majority of people who do not have access to them at an increasing disadvantage in a competitive global economy. It is recognized that this improved information technology may potentially be utilized to enhance and improve education, training, the development of employment programmes for women and marginalized groups, and public awareness of the social, economic and environmental issues affecting the quality of life, and to facilitate access by all key actors and communities to the exchange of habitat practices, including those that uphold the rights of children, women and other marginalized groups in the context of growing urbanization.

Caucus on older people

142. (b) Train key actors of all ages in the use of information technology;

International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres (IFS)

142. (g) Ensure the free flow of ... information in all areas of public policy ...

NGO composite

142. To improve the capacity to exploit these innovations to enhance the public good, Governments and local authorities should:

(a) Upgrade information structure and technology and encourage their use by all levels of government, public institutions, civil society organizations, community-based organizations and local employment programmes for women, men and marginalized groups;

(b) Develop and implement a training programme for women, men and marginalized groups in the use of information technology;

(c) Develop methods of sharing experiences of local initiatives through electronic means, such as the Internet, networks and libraries, and of disseminating information on best practices that utilize gendered governance policies;

(d) Implement programmes that encourage the participation of children, youth, women, the elderly, incarcerated individuals and educational institutions in the use of public libraries and communication networks;

(e) Facilitate the learning process through dissemination of both successful and unsuccessful experiences in human settlements taken from the government, public, private and community sectors;

(f) Establish policies that make information technology and services available and more accessible to the general public;

(f bis) Encourage the development of programming for local and national media that acknowledges the diversity of race and culture in larger cities and promotes an understanding of differing points of view;

(g) Guarantee the free flow of and access to information in the areas of public policy, decision-making, resource allocation and social development that have an impact on women, children and other marginalized groups;

(h) Assure market competition and broad public access in the provision of information technology and media services by strictly limiting concentrations of private ownership and control and by maintaining public information technology and media facilities for those who lack access;

(i) Implement policy measures to ensure that the benefits of productivity gains are broadly shared and contribute to livelihood creation rather than to increased unemployment.